



## ROAD TRAVEL REPORT:

### HONG KONG



#### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO...

- Driving is on the left.
- If driving from Hong Kong to mainland China, be aware that traffic flows on the right in mainland China.
- There are 276 licensed vehicles for every kilometer of road, giving Hong Kong one of the highest vehicle densities in the world.
- There are 1.9 deaths per 100 million kilometers as compared to 0.9 in the U.S.



#### ROAD REALITIES

##### DRIVER BEHAVIORS

- Most drivers obey driving regulations.
- The most common factors in road crashes are tailgating, losing control of the vehicle, careless lane changes, improper or illegal turns and accelerating quickly in a line of traffic and hitting the back of the vehicle ahead.
- Drivers seldom speed in congested urban areas. Speeding is common on trunk roads. Speed cameras monitor traffic on these roads. Tickets are mailed to the car owner.
- Tailgating is most common on major trunk roads. Some sections of trunk roads have chevron markings to indicate the proper distance between vehicles.
- Minibus drivers may speed, make quick stops, or turn abruptly.
- Riding a motorcycle or bicycling in urban areas can be hazardous, as drivers are often indifferent to cyclists.
- Cars are generally well maintained.

##### GENERAL ROAD CONDITIONS

- Hong Kong has a well-developed infrastructure.
- Lantau Island is much larger and less densely populated than Hong Kong Island. The island is hilly and mountainous. Tsing Ma Bridge, the world's longest suspension bridge, links Lantau Island to Kowloon Peninsula.



- Many roads are steep and narrow.
- Road signs are generally in English and Chinese.
- Freeways are most common in the New Territories.
- Smaller islands have no cars. Vehicular traffic is limited on Lantau Island and a special permit is required.
- Traffic is extremely congested in Kowloon.
- Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras monitor travel conditions on some main roads.
- Digital message boards alert motorists to dangerous road conditions, traffic backups, etc. The signs also indicate reduced mandatory speed limits under foggy or windy conditions.
- Hong Kong Department of Transportation provides snapshots of current traffic conditions on major roads. Updates every 2 minutes. Website: [http://traffic.td.gov.hk/selection\\_e.htm](http://traffic.td.gov.hk/selection_e.htm).
- Border crossings between Kowloon and mainland China:
  - Lok Ma Chau Spur Line: pedestrian crossing. Access by MRT East Rail Line, bus, minibus or taxi, but can only be crossed on foot. Use the double-decked Lok Ma Chau-Huanggang pedestrian bridge to cross. Crossing is less congested than Lo Wu, but open fewer hours.



- Lo Wu: train and pedestrian crossing. Access by MRT East Rail Line. Crossing is by foot or train only. The crossing is often congested on weekends and holidays.
- Lok Ma Chau: road, cross-boundary bus and pedestrian crossing. Pedestrian and motorized vehicle facilities are separate. Open 24/7. “Yellow Bus” is a shuttle service, linking Lok Ma Chau Public Transport Interchange in San Tin (Hong Kong) and Huanggang Port (PRC). Trains and express buses from Hong Kong urban areas also provide transport to the crossing.
- Sha Tau Kok: Can be used by cross-boundary bus, heavy truck and pedestrian crossing. Access by cross-boundary buses. Heavy bus and truck traffic. Not as heavily used as other crossings. The crossing is far from Shenzhen’s city center.
- Man Kam To: road and cross-boundary bus crossing. Primarily used by private vehicles, heavy trucks and cross-boundary buses. Not as heavily used as other crossings. Free shuttle service is available from the crossing to central Shenzhen. Best route during holidays.
- Shenzhen Bay Bridge: road and cross-boundary bus crossing. Provides direct access with Shekou, Shenzhen. Public and express buses provide transport to the crossing.
- Hong Kong has four geographic regions:
  - Hong Kong Island The northern section is more densely populated than the southern section.
  - Kowloon: A peninsula just north of Hong Kong Island; part of the Asian continent. Kowloon is the most populous section of Hong Kong. Nathan Road runs through the center of the peninsula.
  - New Territories: New Territories is more rural than other regions. Includes villages, towns, industrial complexes and mountainous parks.
  - Outlying Islands: Lantau is largest of the 234 islands also included in Hong Kong’s territory. Lantau is twice the size of Hong Kong Island. Includes Hong Kong International Airport, which was built on reclaimed land near Lantau’s shore.

- Each region is divided into districts. The following chart gives the districts by region: Hong Kong Island (HKI), Kowloon (Kow) and the New Territories (NT).

Districts	Section	Capital
Central and Western	HKI	Central (Victoria)
Eastern	HKI	Sai Wan Ho
Islands	NT	Mui Wo, Eheung Chau
Kowloon City	Kowloon	Hung Hom
Kwai Tsing	NT	Kwai Chung
Kwun Tong	Kowloon	Kwun Tong
North, NT	NT	Fanling
Sai Kung	NT	Tseung Kwan O
Sham Shui Po	Kowloon	Sham Shui Po
Sha Tin	NT	Shatin Station
Southern	HKI	Aberdeen
Tai Po	NT	Tai Po
Tsuen Wan	NT	Tsuen Wan
Tuen Mun	NT	Tuen Mun
Wan Chai	HKI	Wan Chai
Wong Tai Sin	Kowloon	San Po Kong
Yau Tsim Mong	Kowloon	Mongkok
Yuen Long	NT	Yuen Long

A map of Hong Kong’s districts is provided at the end of this report.

**URBAN TRAVEL**

- The condition and maintenance of streets and roads is good.
- Traffic congestion is increasing on all major trunk roads in urban areas both during peak and off-peak hours. Main trunk roads leading to central business districts are often extremely congested.
- Serious road crashes occur more frequently in urban than rural areas.
- Public transportation is well developed. Service is frequent. The safety record of public transport vehicles is good. Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) trains link main cities in all regions. Buses, minibuses and taxis are readily available.



- Payment of fare is by Public Transport Pass:
  - Airport Express Tourist Transport Pass: Provides one trip on the Airport Express, 3 days of unlimited travel on MRT. Current cost: \$220 each or \$300 for two. Price includes a \$50 deposit. The pass is usable on all buses, trams and most ferries. When departing, return the card to get back a \$50 deposit or keep the card. It is valid for 3 years.
  - Octopus card: Provides instant electronic access to all forms of public transport, except most red-top minibuses and taxis. Tap card on the reader to pay fare. The cards are accepted by most convenience stores, restaurant chains, parking meters and parking garages. Fares are lower on some MRT lines and bus routes when payment is made by Octopus card. If using ferries, MRT, buses or minibuses daily, Octopus cards lower transport expenses.
  - Minimum cost of the cards is \$150, which includes a \$50 refundable deposit. If cards are returned in less than three months, a \$7 charge is subtracted from the deposit.
  - Refill the cards at customer service desks in MRT stations or at Add Value machines, located near regular ticket machines in MRT stations. Machines only accept cash. Maximum value the cards can carry is \$1,000.
- On-street parking is metered. Parking fees are in effect from 8 am to midnight week days and 10 am to 10 pm on Sundays and public holidays. Use Octopus card to pay parking charges.
- Spaces are small in parking garages. Cars often get small dents and scrapes.
- Hong Kong is easily toured on foot.
- In Hong Kong, a subway is an underground walkway, not an underground railway.
- Air pollution levels are high in many larger cities, especially in areas with closely packed high-rise buildings.
- New Towns Program: The government has undertaken development projects in selected towns, rural townships and urban areas. Projects include upgrading roads and constructing public and private housing, community facilities and building rail links to major urban areas. Public transportation is well developed in New Towns.
- The risk of landslides occurring in urban areas is high.

### HONG KONG

#### CONDITIONS

Sharp curves obscure cars that are stopped at traffic lights. Traffic is often bumper-to-bumper most of the day. Many streets in busier sections of the city are one-way. Parking is limited, especially in busy sections as Central, Causeway Bay and Tsim Sha Tsui.

Fees for using carparks (parking garages) in office buildings and malls are \$20-\$40 per hour. Fees are posted at carpark entrances.

Pay for metered parking with an Octopus card, a prepaid card. The cards are widely available. More time is easily added to the card. Parking fee is \$2 per 15 minutes. Parking meters operate 8:00 am to midnight, Mon.-Sat. and 10:00 am to 10:00 pm on Sundays and public holidays.

Pedestrian traffic is high. Pedestrians may jaywalk, even across main roads.

In Happy Valley and Tsim Sha Tsui suburbs, main streets have pedestrian underpasses.

#### USEFUL INFORMATION

In high traffic areas such Central and Admiralty, many streets have elevated, covered walkways, connecting hotels, office buildings, and shopping areas. Walkways are heavily used on many streets. The longest of these walkways is the Central-Mid-levels escalators, which links Des Voeux Road in Central with Conduit Road in Mid-Levels. Includes 20 escalators and 3 moving sidewalks. Has an entrance and exit at each road it crosses. Runs downhill from 6:00am to 10:00am and uphill from 10:30am to midnight daily.

Most gas stations are in residential areas.

**HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

The airport, 25 miles from Hong Kong's city center on Chek Lap Kok island. There are two terminals, T1 and T2. Underground shuttle buses provide transport from the security station to the terminals.

Bus, taxi, rail, and ferry services are available to the main islands and the mainland.

**SHA TIN NEW TOWN****CONDITIONS**

Roads serving Sha Tin are being expanded. Completed road projects include: Sha Tin Heights Tunnel, the section of Route 8 linking Sha Tin to Cheung Sha Wan and Road T3 in Tai Wan.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

The New Town includes Ma On Shan. It was developed mostly on land reclaimed from Tolo Harbour. MRT's East Rail and Ma On Shan Rail lines serve the city.

**SOUTH LANTAU****CONDITIONS**

The transportation network is well developed. Many roads are steep and narrow. South Lantau's Mui Wo villages: Trucks and cars are not permitted. Cycling is a common mode of transport.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

New Lantau Bus Company is the only bus company in southern areas of Lantau Island. Website: [www.newlantaobus.com](http://www.newlantaobus.com). Information is in Chinese. Lantau Taxis are the only taxis allowed to provide service in South Lantau. Taxis are scarce. To reserve a taxi, call #2984 1328 or #2984 1368 well in advance of planned departure. Some taxis operate in off-peak hours. There are taxi ranks (areas where taxis wait for riders): near the ferry pier in Silvermine Bay, near the wet markets in Mui Wo and in villages along South Lantau Road.

**TSUEN WAN NEW TOWN****CONDITIONS**

Traffic levels in the region have increased. Route 8 between Tsing Yi and Cheung Sha Wan should be open in late 2009. Yeung Uk Road is to be widened between Tai Ho Road and Ma Tau Pa Road. Completion expected in 2011.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

An industrial hub that includes Tsuen Wan, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi Island. Kwai Tsing container terminal is also part of the New Town. MRT service is available.

**TSEUNG KWAN O NEW TOWN****CONDITIONS**

Main roads serving the city:

- Tseung Kwan O Tunnel on Route 7; goes to Kwun Tong.
- Po Lam Road; goes to Kwun Tong.
- Hang Hau Road and Ying Yip Road; goes to Sai Kung and Clear Water Bay.
- Wan Po Road; goes to Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

The city is served by three external road links and a good road network and also by the Mass Transit Railway Tseung Kwan O extension. Located in Sai Kung District in southeastern New Territories. Bus and minibus services are well developed. Kowloon Motor Bus primarily serves Po Lam and Hang Hau areas. New World First Bus primarily serves Tiu Keng Leng and much of southern Tseung Kwan O. Citybus provides transport to the International Airport in Chek Lap Kok. MRT service links the New Town to larger urban areas. Tseung Kwan O Line has four stations:

- Tiu Keng Leng Station, on Chui Ling Road in Tiu Keng Leng (also known as Rennie's Mill).
- Tseung Kwan O Line (the purple line) links the New Town with Hong Kong Island. Passes through the Eastern Harbour Tunnel.



**TSEUNG KWAN O NEW TOWN (CONTINUED)**

**CONDITIONS**

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

- Hang Hau Station, in Hang Hau. Riders can access Sheung Road and Pui Shing Road directly from the station. Serves large residential areas. Bus services are available. Exit A2 is handicap accessible.
- Po Lam MRT Station, on Mau Yip Road. Pedestrian footbridges link the station and bus/minibuses waiting areas. City center is accessible by foot. A footbridge across Po Fung Road goes to residential areas.

**TUEN MUN NEW TOWN**

**CONDITIONS**

The road network serving the city is good.

Many heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) use the roads leading to the city.

Lung Fu Road (Foothills Bypass), a dual 2-lane highway, provides an alternate route for HGVs traveling to and from industrial areas in Tuen Mun southwest. The bypass has also reduced HGV traffic on Lung Mun Road.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Located in the western New Territories, most of Tuen Mun, was developed on land reclaimed from Castle Peak Bay or platforms built over the valley between Castle Peak and Tai Lam Hills. Tuen Mun includes River Trade Terminal, a shipping center for containers and bulk cargo.

Public transport is well developed.

MRT's West Rail Line serves the city. Tuen Mun Station is in the center of Tuen Mun New Town. Passengers can access the Light Rail via escalators and stairs in the station. Tuen Mun Light Rail stop was formerly known as the San Fat Light Rail stop.

- Taxis provide transport from the MRT station to city center and neighboring areas.
- Feeder buses provide transport between neighboring towns and the MRT Station.

**TUNG CHUNG NEW TOWN**

**CONDITIONS**

North Lantau Highway serves the city.

Traffic on roads linking the city and the International Airport may be heavy.

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

Located in North Lantau, near the International Airport.

New Lantao Bus Co. provides transport between Tung Chung, Tung Chung Line (MRT station), Lantau Link Toll Plaza, a bus-bus interchange link, allowing transfer to buses serving 14 other routes.

Public transport serving Yat Tung Estate, a remote suburb of Tung Chung New Town:

- Buses provide transport to Tsuen Wan, Homantin, Hung Hom, Tin Shui Wai, Sha Tin, the International Airport and Lantau Link Toll Plaza, a bus-bus interchange link, allowing transfer to buses serving 14 other routes.
- New Lantao Bus Co. and Scheduled Public Light Buses (green minibuses) provide service between Yat Tung Estate and Tung Chung Line Station. Service is frequent.



## RURAL TRAVEL

- The condition and maintenance of roads is good.
- Road crash blackspots are more common than in urban areas.
- Road risk is higher on rural roundabouts.
- Secondary and tertiary roads are often narrow, winding and steep.
- Be alert for stray cattle and water buffalo.
- Roads can be closed due to landslides, especially during or after heavy rains

## PEDESTRIAN TRAVEL

- Pedestrians account for about 47% of annual road fatalities.
- If from a country where driving is on the right, use caution until accustomed to traffic moving on the opposite side of the road. If walking, remember to look to right, left and right before crossing a road.
- Guard rails and pedestrian barriers are used to separate pedestrian traffic from vehicular traffic where traffic is heavy. The guard rails lead pedestrians to crossings. Do not climb over the rails or barriers.
- Footbridges, pedestrian subways and elevated walkways provide the safest means of crossing heavily traveled roads. Some footbridges and subways have ramps and escalators as well as steps. Do not cross within 15 feet of a footbridge or pedestrian subway.
- Types of pedestrianized crossings:
  - Zebra crossings: Their locations are marked by yellow beacons (usually flashing). The crossing itself is indicated by black and white strips. Along each side of the stripes there are zigzag black and white markings. Pedestrians should not walk in the zigzag area, as vehicles may need it to stop safely.
  - “Green man” crossings: The crossing is marked by two rows of studs on the pavement. It may also be marked with yellow stripes. Do not start crossing the road if the “Green man” begins to flash. At some crossings a beeping sound accompanies the “Green man” light. A continuous beep tells blind pedestrians it is safe to cross; an intermittent beep tells them to wait.
  - Audible traffic signals (ATS) assist visually impaired persons to cross safely. The sound pattern changes, depending on the color of the traffic light.
- Use crosswalks.
- Pedestrianized zones have been established on some streets. Pedestrianization schemes:
  - Full-time pedestrian streets: Motorized vehicles are not permitted, except for emergency vehicles. Service may be permitted during specified times for selected locations.
  - Part-time pedestrian streets: Motorized vehicles may use the streets during specified times, but there is no on-street parking.
  - Traffic calming streets: Sidewalks are generally wider than normal and on-street parking is minimal. Some taxi and green minibus stands (areas where drivers wait for riders) are permitted. Motorized vehicles are permitted, traffic calming measures, such as speed bumps, sharpened corners and narrowed sections of road are used to reduce travel speeds.
- Urban areas with pedestrianized streets: Causeway Bay, Central, Wan Chai, Mong Kok, Tsim Sha Tsui, Jordan, Sham Shui Po, Stanley and Shek Wu Hui.
- If pedestrian and bike paths run side by side, do not walk on the bike path.

## SEASONAL TRAVEL

- Winter can get very cold, but freezing conditions are unlikely.
- The rainy season typically runs from June to August. Torrential rains are most common in June and July.
- Cloudbursts may occur in the rainy season. Rainstorms lasting several hours can develop after cloudbursts. Flood and landslide risk is high during extended rains.
- Hong Kong’s rainstorm warning signals alert the public to rains heavy enough to cause major traffic congestion and floods. The signals are broadcast on radio and TV. There are three levels of alert: amber, red and black.
  - Amber signal: Heavy rains probable. Flooding expected in some low-lying or poorly drained areas.
  - Red signal: Heavy rains likely. Serious road flooding and heavily traffic congested expected.
  - Black signal: Very heavy rain has fallen and is likely to continue. Seek shelter immediately. Buses and other forms of public transport will close. MRT will close or offer limited service, due to flooding risk.



- A tsunami has never been recorded in Hong Kong. The Philippines and Taiwan act as a breakwater for tsunamis that are caused by earthquakes in land under the Pacific.
- Hong Kong averages 2-3 typhoons per year. Typhoons generally occur from June to September. A well-developed monitoring and notification system is in place. Typhoons Traffic management systems help maintain traffic flow on complex road networks during typhoons.
  - In the event of an approaching typhoon, determine location of nearest shelter. Flights may be canceled or delayed. Ports may be closed. Keep travel documents in a secure, dry location. Keep friends advised of your location and welfare.
- Cyclone warning signals are issued when a cyclone center is within 500 miles (800 km) of Hong Kong. Warning system has twelve levels. When warning level reaches 3, all public transport, except MRT, closes or reduces service. A level 8 warning means gale or storm force winds are expected. A level 10 or greater warning means hurricane force winds are expected and the eye of the cyclone may pass over Hong Kong.
- Landslide risk is high throughout Hong Kong, due to its mountainous terrain. Most landslides occur from May to September. The expansion of urban on steeper slopes of mountains has increased risk of damage to roads, buildings and other infrastructure due to landslides.
- Landslides are difficult to predict, but are most common during and after heavy rains. Warnings issued by Hong Kong Observatory minimize injuries, fatalities and damages to vehicles.
- Danger of hill fires (forest fires) is greatest from October to April, the driest months. Most hill fires occur during Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals. In park areas, Fire Danger Warning signs display current fire threat level. Warnings are also aired on radio and TV.
  - Use extreme caution if using a camp fire during yellow or red fire danger warnings.
  - Set fires or use fuel-burning lanterns only in designated areas. Illegal use of lanterns or fires is subject to a \$25,000 fine and a 1 year imprisonment.
- Road crash risk is generally higher on public holidays. Dates for most holidays are variable. Holidays include: New Year's Day, Jan. 1; Lunar New Year's Day, three days in late Jan. to mid-Feb.; Easter holiday, four days in Mar. or April; day after Ching Ming Festival, April; Labor Day, May 1; The Buddha's Birthday, May; Tuen Ng Festival (Dragon Boat Festival), May or June; Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Establishment Day, July 1; last Monday in August, Liberation Day; the day following Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, late Sept. to early Oct.; National Day, early in Oct.; mid-October, Chung Yeung Festival; Christmas Day and first week day after Christmas, Dec. 25.
- During Ching Ming and Chung Yeung Festivals, people honor their ancestors by clearing dead grass and leaves from the grave sites and burning "offerings near the graves. During these festivals, temporary traffic restrictions may be placed on roads near cemeteries. Some roads may close, except to public transport vehicles. Police close access routes to cemeteries if the routes become too congested. Two-way roads may be made one-way. Use public transportation when possible. Parking near cemeteries is limited. Illegally parked vehicles are towed.

#### **POLICE ENFORCEMENT**

- Driving regulations are strictly enforced.
- Police identify and patrol road crash black spots (sites of frequent road crashes).
- Fixed speed enforcement cameras are used on main roads with frequent road crashes.
- Police post the location of speed enforcement cameras on their website: [www.police.gov.hk/hkp-home/english/misc/traffic2.htm](http://www.police.gov.hk/hkp-home/english/misc/traffic2.htm). The locations may change without prior notification.
- Speed cameras are used on road sections with high road crash rates or frequent speeding offenses. Use of speed cameras on Tolo Highway reduced speed-related crashes by 23% and the number of drivers exceeding the speed limit by 15 km/h by 70%.
- Red light cameras monitor traffic at intersections with frequent road crashes. Use of red light cameras has reduced red light violations by about 70%.



- Police may check IDs and passports any time, with or without. Cooperate fully with the officers. Police are rarely discourteous. Use the Police Complaint hotline (phone: 2866-7700) to report any problems. Give the officer's badge number.



## ROAD REGULATIONS

- Driving is on the left.
- Drivers, who have lived in the U.S. for at least 6 months and hold a valid U.S. driver's license, may be issued a Hong Kong driver's license that is valid for 12 months. No test is required. Hong Kong's Transport Department provides further information for drivers staying longer than 12 months. Website: [www.td.gov.hk/home/index.htm](http://www.td.gov.hk/home/index.htm).
- The minimum driving age is 18.
- The legal blood alcohol limit is 0.5 mg/ml.
- Drivers, involved in a road crash, are required to take a blood alcohol content test at the scene of the crash. Drivers with blood alcohol levels exceeding the legal limit can be prosecuted.
- If a vehicle has seatbelts, the driver and all passengers are required to use them. Law is strictly enforced.
- Speed limits, unless otherwise marked:
  - Urban areas 50 km/h (31 mph)
  - Secondary roads 70 km/h (43 mph)
  - Highways 80 km/h (50 mph)
  - Expressways 110 km/h (68 mph)
- Speed limit is generally reduced in congested or residential areas.
- The fine for exceeding the speed limit by 35 to 45 km/h is \$450 to \$600. If exceeding the speed limit by more than 45 km/h, the fine is \$800 to \$1000. Ticket includes information on how to pay the fine.
- Reduce speed when approaching roundabouts. Turn left to enter traffic. Yield to traffic coming on the right, unless road markings indicate otherwise.
- Do not enter pedestrianized streets during restricted times. During unrestricted times, drive slowly, yield to pedestrians and use horns only if there is a genuine danger.
- Police response to foreigners who are crime victims is very good. Response time to emergencies is two minutes; to non-emergencies is less than seven minutes. Operators who take emergency calls speak English, Cantonese and Mandarin.
- Do not enter a cycle way or cycle lane.
- Expressways and some other roads have emergency lanes (hard shoulders). Use emergency lanes only when an actual emergency occurs.
- Using a handheld cellular phone while driving is illegal. The maximum fine for doing so is \$260 US. Hands-free devices, such as headphones and speakerphones, are permitted.
- All registered vehicles must carry valid third-party liability insurance.
- For specific information on driving permits, vehicle inspection, road tax, and mandatory insurance, contact Hong Kong's Transport Department: Ph: (852) 2829-5248, fax: (852) 2824-0433, email: [tdenq@td.gcn.gov.hk](mailto:tdenq@td.gcn.gov.hk) or website: [www.info.gov.hk/td](http://www.info.gov.hk/td).
- The Department of Highway's website ([www.info.gov.hk/td/eng/advice/road.html](http://www.info.gov.hk/td/eng/advice/road.html)) has detailed information on driving regulations, road signs and markings, and traffic lights. The "Road User Code" is online in English (website: [www.td.gov.hk/road\\_safety/road\\_users\\_code/index/index.htm](http://www.td.gov.hk/road_safety/road_users_code/index/index.htm)).
- Motorists, who drive irresponsibly and have a road crash that involves a fatality, can be fined up to \$6,500, imprisoned for up to five years and lose their license for a minimum of two years on the first conviction.
- When involved in a road crash:
  - Do not move vehicle. Call for an ambulance if anyone is injured. Call 999 and wait for police to arrive. Exchange information with other drivers involved. Obtain statements and contact information of any witnesses.
  - Photograph crash scene from different angles before moving vehicles. Include a photo of vehicle license plates. (continued on next page)





- Fill out Accident Report Form provided by insurer. Include your account of the events in the crash. All drivers involved must sign the form, unless drivers involved do not agree on what happened. If agreement is lacking, do not sign the form.
- In case of serious injuries or fatalities, call 999 and request police and ambulance assistance. Do not move an injured person unless there is an immediate danger. Provide first aid treatment if adequately trained. Cooperate with police investigation. If drug or alcohol abuse is involved, maximum fines and penalties may apply.
- If road crash occurs in a tunnel, do not move vehicle. Turn on four-way flashers. Use an emergency phone to contact tunnel control center for assistance. Indicate if serious injuries resulted. Notify police and fire personnel if toxic chemicals are involved.



## ROAD WATCH

### ROAD INFORMATION

ROAD	CONDITIONS & USEFUL INFORMATION
<p><b>HONG KONG ISLAND AND KOWLOON</b></p> <p><b>ROUTE 1</b></p>	<p>A major north-south route. Links Hong Kong Island, large cities in Kowloon and the New Territories. Passes through Cross-Harbour Tunnel.</p> <p>Runs north-south through the center of Hong Kong Island. Intersections are grade-separated. The road includes Aberdeen Tunnel. Links Aberdeen with Happy Valley and the Cross-Harbour Tunnel and continues in Kowloon.</p>
<p><b>KOWLOON</b></p> <p><b>LION ROCK TUNNEL ROAD, PART OF ROUTE 1</b></p>	<p>Dual, 2-lane highway. A heavily traveled, strategic route that is part of Route 1. The road passes through Lion Rock Tunnel. Mudslides can close lanes or sections of the road during heavy rains. Several road crashes have occurred where the Kowloon-bound section of the road enters Lion Rock Tunnel. The section is steep and has a sharp bend.</p>
<p><b>NEW TERRITORIES AND KOWLOON</b></p> <p><b>LION ROCK TUNNEL AND SECOND LION ROCK TUNNEL, PART OF ROUTE 1</b></p>	<p>Heavily traveled, 2-lane tunnels, linking Sha Tin in the New Territories and New Kowloon near Kowloon Tong. The tunnels are part of Route 1.</p> <p>The tunnels have been in use for 30 years. Extensive maintenance work is scheduled from mid-2010 to mid-2013. Work will be done at night to minimize interference with traffic flow.</p>
<p><b>HONG KONG ISLAND</b></p> <p><b>CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL, PART OF ROUTE 1</b></p>	<p>Dual two-lane tunnel under Victoria Harbour. The tunnel carries Route 1. Traffic in the tunnel and on main approach roads to the tunnel congested, especially during rush hours.</p> <p>The tunnel links Causeway Bay on Hong Kong Island with Hung Hom in Kowloon. The tunnel's toll is lower and its location is more convenient than the Eastern Harbour Crossing or Western Harbour Crossing tunnels.</p>
<p><b>ROUTE 2</b></p>	<p>A major north-south route. Heavily traveled. Links Hong Kong Island, large cities in Kowloon and the New Territories. Passes through Eastern Harbour Tunnel.</p>



ROAD	CONDITIONS & USEFUL INFORMATION
<p><b>HONG KONG ISLAND</b></p> <p><b>EASTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL, PART OF ROUTE 2</b></p>	<p>Traffic in the tunnel and on its main approach roads is congested, especially during rush hours. The tunnel includes a dual, 2-lane road (Route 2) and MRT rail line. Passes under Victoria Bay. Links Quarry Bay on Hong Kong Island to Cha Kwo Ling in Kowloon. The road passing through the tunnel links the Island Eastern Corridor and Kwun Tong Bypass. The rail line links Quarry Bay and Yau Tong Stations of the MRT Tseung Kwan Line. Tunnel toll is higher than Cross-Harbour Tunnel's, but traffic is less congested. Also called the Eastern Harbour Tunnel Crossing.</p>
<p><b>ROUTE 3</b></p>	<p>A major north-south route. Links Hong Kong Island, large cities in Kowloon and the New Territories. Passes through Western Harbour Tunnel.</p>
<p><b>WESTERN HARBOUR CROSSING, PART OF ROUTE 3</b></p>	<p>Traffic in the tunnel and main approach roads to the tunnel is heavily congested, especially during rush hours. Dual, 3-lane tunnel, linking West Kowloon to Sai Ying Pun on Hong Kong Island. Passes under Victoria Harbour. The Western Kowloon Highway (Route 3) goes through the tunnel and intersects with Route 4. Emergency phones and fire extinguishers are available at regular intervals. Traffic is constantly monitored by video for prompt response to emergencies. Website with a list of tolls by type of vehicle and routes to reach each tunnel: <a href="http://www.westernharbourtunnel.com/">www.westernharbourtunnel.com/</a>.</p> <p>The tunnel's Kowloon portal is very steep.</p>
<p><b>ROUTE 4</b></p>	<p>A major east-west route. Follows Hong Kong Island's northern shore. Links the eastern and western ends of the island. Traffic is congested, especially during rush hours. A major east-west expressway, running along the northern shore of Hong Kong Island. The road has two sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o First section: follows Island Eastern Corridor from Chai Wan to Central, Victoria Park Road, Gloucester Road, Harcourt Road Flyover and Connaught Road Central.</li> <li>o Second section: follows Connaught Road Central to Kennedy Town via the Connaught Road West Flyover.</li> </ul> <p>The road intersects with Routes 1-3, which serve all tunnels under Victoria Bay. Links Chai Wan, Heng Fa Chuen, A Kung Ngam, Shau Kei Wan, Tai Koo Shing, Quarry Bay, Causeway Bay, Wan Chai, Central, Sheung Wan, Sai Ying Pun, Shek Tong Tsui and Kennedy Town.</p>
<p><b>HONG KONG ISLAND</b></p> <p><b>ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, A PART OF ROUTE 4</b></p>	<p>Traffic is congested, especially during rush hours. An expressway, linking Causeway Bay, Tai Koo Shing, Shau Kei Wan and Chai Wan. Part of the Hong Kong Strategic Route System, the road intersects major trunk routes (Victoria Park Road, Gloucester Road, and Eastern Harbour Crossing) and ends at MRT Chai Wan Station.</p> <p>Frequent road crashes and incidents of speeding.</p>
<p><b>HONG KONG ISLAND</b></p> <p><b>CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL, HARCOURT ROAD AND GLOUCESTER ROAD CORRIDOR</b></p>	<p>The corridor provides access to city center. Heavily congested during peak times. Under construction: The Central-Wan Chai Bypass will link Central and Causeway Bay on Hong Kong Island. The bypass will be part of Route 4 and will link Connaught Road West and Island Eastern Corridor.</p>



ROAD	CONDITIONS & USEFUL INFORMATION
<p><b>HONG KONG ISLAND</b></p> <p><b>CENTRAL WAN CHAI BYPASS (CWB)</b></p>	<p>The bypass and the Island Eastern Corridor link are part of a strategic highway in northern Hong Kong Island. They connect Rumsey Street Flyover in Central to the Island Eastern Corridor at North Point. The bypass is under construction. Completion expected in 2017.</p>
<p><b>HONG KONG ISLAND</b></p> <p><b>PRINCESS MARGARET ROAD</b></p>	<p>A trunk road. Congestion increases as the road approaches Tsim Sha Tsui and the Cross-Harbour Tunnel.</p>
<p><b>KOWLOON</b></p> <p><b>EAST-WEST TRUNK ROADS</b></p>	<p>East-west trunk roads in central Kowloon are extremely congested during rush hours. In less than 7 years, traffic on Lung Cheung Road, Boundary Street, Prince Edward Road, Argyle Street, Waterloo Road, Gascoign Road Flyover, Chatham Road North and other trunk roads will exceed the roads' capacity by 30%.</p>
<p><b>NEW TERRITORIES AND KOWLOON</b></p> <p><b>ROUTE 5 AND ROUTE 7</b></p>	<p>A major east-west routes. The routes link the southern section of the New Territories and sections of Kowloon.</p>
<p><b>EASTERN KOWLOON</b></p> <p><b>LUNG CHEUNG ROAD, PART OF ROUTE 7</b></p>	<p>A dual 3-lane highway in Eastern Kowloon. A trunk route. Has many hilly sections. Links Kwun Tong Road at Ngau Chi Wan and Ching Cheung Road near Tai Wo Ping. Traffic includes many heavy goods vehicles.</p>
<p><b>"AIRPORT ACCESS"</b></p>	<p>Any main highway that links Hong Kong Island and Hong Kong International Airport is considered part of the "Airport Access" network. Some roads included are North Lantau Highway, Lantau Link, Cheung Tsing Highway, Cheung Tsing Tunnel, Tsing Kwai Highway, West Kowloon Highway and Western Harbour Crossing.</p>
<p><b>KOWLOON</b></p> <p><b>NATHAN ROAD</b></p>	<p>A heavily traveled trunk road, running north-south through Kowloon. Links Tsim Sha Tsui and Mong Kok. Starts at its intersection with Salisbury Road, near Victoria Harbour, and ends at its intersection with Boundary Street in the north. There are many shops and restaurants along the road. Heavy congestion is common near intersections. Be alert for pedestrians jaywalking. Use caution if walking across the road, even at crosswalks.</p>
<p><b>NEW TERRITORIES AND LANTAU ISLAND</b></p> <p><b>ROUTE 8</b></p>	<p>A major east-west route. Provides access to Hong Kong International Airport. A trunk road, linking Lantau Island and Sha Tin. The road includes the North Lantau Highway and Lantau Link.</p> <p>The section from Cheung Sha Wan to Sha Tin was completed in 2008. Includes Eagle's Nest and Sha Tin Heights Tunnels.</p> <p>The section from Tsing Yi to Cheung Sha Wan includes Nam Wan Tunnel and Stonecutter's Bridge should be open in late 2009.</p>



ROAD	CONDITIONS & USEFUL INFORMATION
<p><b>NEW TERRITORIES &amp; LANTAU ISLAND</b></p> <p><b>LANTAU LINK, PART OF ROUTE 8</b></p> <p><b>INCLUDES: TSING MA BRIDGE, KAP SHUI MUN BRIDGE AND MA WAN VIADUCT</b></p>	<p>Tsing Ma Bridge links Tsing Yi Island to Ma Wan Island. Kap Shui Mun Bridge links Ma Wan Island and Lantau Island. These double deck, suspension bridges carry 6 lanes of traffic on upper decks and 2 MRT tracks and 2 lanes of traffic on lower decks. Lower decks are enclosed. Traffic may be restricted to the lower decks under extremely high wind conditions.</p> <p>Wind speed and the bridge’s structural integrity are constantly monitored. Cameras allow operators to monitor traffic conditions.</p> <p>The bridges are linked by Ma Wan Viaduct, built over Ma Wan Island. The viaduct has the same layout as the bridges, so there is a seamless road and rail link between the 3 islands. The bridges and the viaduct are part of Lantau Link, a transport network providing access to Hong Kong International Airport. They carry Route 8 and MRT Tung Chung and Airport Express rail lines. Lantau Link is also known as Lantau Fixed Crossing,</p> <p>Maximum speed limit on the bridges and viaduct is 80 km/h (50 mph). Speed limit drops in construction zones and under high wind conditions.</p> <p>There are no sidewalks, as pedestrian travel is banned. Parking is not permitted.</p> <p>Tolls for two-way trip are HK\$20 for motorcycles, \$30 for private cars, \$60 buses and \$80 heavy goods vehicles.</p>
<p><b>LANTAU ISLAND</b></p> <p><b>NORTH LANTAU HIGHWAY, PART OF ROUTE 8</b></p>	<p>A dual, 3-lane expressway with wide, paved shoulders. Links Hong Kong International Airport and Lantau Island to the rest of Hong Kong. Begins at Airport Road on Chek Lap Kok island and crosses to Lantau Island. The road bypasses Tung Chung New Town and continues along Lantau’s northern coast, paralleling the Airport Express and MRT Tung Chung Line. The road intersects with the Lantau Link, which serves the International Airport.</p> <p>Also intersects with Penny’s Bay Highway in Yam O, which leads to Hong Kong Disneyland Resort. The speed limit is 110 km/h (68 mph), the highest in Hong Kong.</p> <p>Frequent road crashes and incidents of speeding.</p>
<p><b>LANTAU ISLAND</b></p> <p><b>TUNG CHUNG ROAD</b></p>	<p>Originally a 1-lane road. Was upgraded to 2-lanes to handle heavier traffic levels and improve road safety.</p> <p>The only link between North and South Lantau. Many sections are steep and winding. Was a 1-lane road with a high road crash rate. Has been widened to 2 lanes from Lung Tseng Tau to Pak Kung Au. Improvements included wide, paved shoulders, adequate drainage facilities and slope stabilization structures. Work on the Pak Kung Au to Cheung Sha is nearing completion.</p> <p>The road passes through mountainous terrain. Extra caution is needed on steeper sections. The speed limit on the Lung Tseng Tau to San Shek Wan section is 30 km/h.</p> <p>The section from Shek Mun Kap to San Shek Wan is a Lantau Closed Road. A “Lantau Closed Road Permit” is required to use it.</p>
<p><b>NEW TERRITORIES</b></p> <p><b>ROUTE 9 (ALSO KNOWN AS CIRCULAR ROAD)</b></p>	<p>A high-capacity trunk road; A circular route around the New Territories. Links Tai Po, Fanling, Yuen Long new towns. The road carries increasing levels of cross-boundary traffic to Shenzhen.</p> <p>Exits for the route are numbered from the exit for Sha Tin near the Shing Mun Tunnels. Expressways and trunk roads in New Territories intersect with Route 9.</p>



ROAD	CONDITIONS & USEFUL INFORMATION
<p><b>NEW TERRITORIES</b></p> <p><b>SHA TIN TO TSUEN WAN, PART OF ROUTE 9</b></p>	<p>A dual, 2-lane highway. Passes through Shing Mun Tunnel.</p>
<p><b>NEW TERRITORIES</b></p> <p><b>YUEN LONG HIGHWAY, PART OF ROUTE 9</b></p>	<p>A dual, 3-lane highway, linking Tuen Mun and Yuen Long.</p>
<p><b>EASTERN NEW TERRITORIES</b></p> <p><b>TOLO HIGHWAY, PART OF ROUTE 9</b></p>	<p>Frequent road crashes. Speeding is common. The road is a major expressway, linking Sha Tin New Town and Tai Po New Town. The first section is a dual 4-lane road. It runs along the west coast of Tolo Harbour and parallels MRT's East Rail Line. The second section is a dual 3-lane expressway. It runs through the hills south of Tai Po and ends at Lam Kam Interchange.</p>
<p><b>EASTERN NEW TERRITORIES</b></p> <p><b>FANLING HIGHWAY, PART OF ROUTE 9</b></p>	<p>Frequent road crashes. Speeding is common. A 3-lane expressway, linking Tai Po New Town, Sheung Shui and Fanling. The road begins at Lam Kam Interchange and ends at San Tin Highway.</p>
<p><b>NEW TERRITORIES</b></p> <p><b>ROUTE 10</b></p>	<p>A major east-west route. The road is a dual, 3-lane expressway. Provides access to the border crossing at Shekou, Shenzhen, China.</p> <p>Roads included in Route 10: Kong Sham Western Highway (formerly Deep Bay Link) and Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor. The road links Lam Tei with Shenzhen Bay Port in China.</p>
<p><b>NEW TERRITORIES</b></p> <p><b>KONG SHAM WESTERN HIGHWAY</b></p>	<p>A dual, 3-lane highway, linking Ngau Hom Shek to Lam Tei. Much of the road was built on viaducts. The highway is linked to Shenzhen, China by Shenzhen Bay Bridge.</p>
<p><b>HONG KONG-SHENZHEN WESTERN CORRIDOR</b></p>	<p>A 6-lane road. It is one of four highways linking Hong Kong and mainland China. Transport along the corridor is provided by public buses from Yuen Long or Tuen Mun and green public light buses from Tin Shui Wai New Town. Hong Kong taxis, minibuses and cross-border buses are also permitted to use the corridor.</p> <p>Personal vehicles must have a permit to use the corridor. Parking is available near the corridor for vehicles lacking a permit. Taxis provide transport across the corridor.</p>
<p><b>NEW TERRITORIES</b></p> <p><b>HIRAM'S HIGHWAY</b></p>	<p>A two-lane highway in New Territories. Links Sai Kung to Clear Water Bay Road. Some sections are mountainous and winding with many sharp curves. Trees or shrubs along the road restrict visibility, especially on sharp curves. Traffic includes many buses and heavy trucks.</p>
<p><b>NEW TERRITORIES</b></p> <p><b>NEW HIRAM'S HIGHWAY</b></p>	<p>A short (730 meter) section of Hiram's Highway has been upgraded to a high-standard, 4-lane road. Speeding is common. Road crash risk is high, especially on Nam Pin Wai Roundabout where the road intersects with Clear Water Bay Road. Both roads have a fairly steep gradient prior to the roundabout. Reduce speed when nearing the roundabout.</p>



ROAD	CONDITIONS & USEFUL INFORMATION
<b>NEW TERRITORIES</b>  <b>TUEN MUN ROAD</b>	High road crash rate. Speeding is common. A narrow, winding 2-lane road; passes through mountainous terrain. Has many steep sections and sharp bends. Completed in 1983; many sections are in poor condition. Sections being upgraded: Town Centre Section; completion expected in 2013. Tsuen Wan to Sham Shing Hui; completion expected in 2014.
<b>NEW TERRITORIES</b>  <b>CASTLE PEAK ROAD</b>	Siu Lam to So Kwun Wat and Tsuen Wan to Siu Lam sections have been upgraded to dual, 2-lane roads.



## ROAD RECOMMENDATIONS

### TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

#### BUSES

- Public transportation is generally safe. About 90 percent of the population of Hong Kong depends on public transport.
  - Buses, taxis, and the mass transit railway (MTR) are readily available, safe and inexpensive.
  - Buses run throughout Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories.
  - Buses may be very crowded during rush hour. The ride may be a little rough on older buses.
  - There are many different bus companies. Route and fare information is available on company websites. Main companies:
    - Kowloon Motor Bus and its subsidiary, Long Win Bus. Website: [www.kmb.hk/english.php?](http://www.kmb.hk/english.php?)
    - CityBus and New World First Bus, jointly owned by Chow Tai Fook Enterprises Limited and NWS Holdings Limited. Website: [www.nwstbus.com.hk/home/default.aspx?intLangID=1](http://www.nwstbus.com.hk/home/default.aspx?intLangID=1).
    - New Lantao Bus, website: [www.newlantaobus.com](http://www.newlantaobus.com).
  - Most bus companies accept Octopus cards. Buses are easy to use, but may not have signage in English. Routes can be confusing.
  - Buses provide most public transport option in southern Hong Kong and on Lantau.
- Types of buses:
    - Double-decker buses: Provide service in most of Hong Kong. Buses stop frequently. Fares vary according to distance traveled. Route and fare information is on company websites. (Information on main companies given below.)
    - Public light buses: Minibuses that carry a maximum of 16 passengers. Minibuses may be more difficult for visitors to use, as riders generally call out the name of their stop or ask the driver to stop in Cantonese. Fare is often displayed in Chinese. Fare is higher when demand is high.
    - Kowloon Canton Railway (KCR) operates feeder buses that provide transport to and from train stations. The service is free if payment of fare is by Octopus card.
  - Types of minibuses:
    - Red minibuses: Also called maxicabs. Drivers do not accept Octopus cards, but do give change. Red minibuses do not have route numbers.
    - Green minibuses: Drivers accept Octopus cards, but cannot give change. Pay with Octopus card or exact change. Green minibuses are also known as Scheduled Public Light Buses.
  - Maxicabs are yellow and green and have the same design scheme as the minibuses. Maxicabs have definite routes.



- Minibus drivers often speed, especially at night. There have been fewer road crashes involving mini-bus since the government required the installation of large, digital speedometers that are clearly visible to passengers. Tampering with the device or having one that is malfunctioning is a traffic violation.
  - Police take enforcement actions if drivers speed or drive recklessly.
- Minibus drivers receive a basic salary plus bonus. The maximum number of trips a driver can make per day is capped.
- Ask drivers or station personnel to help you to find the right route. Specify region of Hong Kong you wish to reach and whether you want to travel by bus or minibus.
- Many drivers speak some English; but if possible, have destination written in Chinese characters. Ask hotel receptionist for the hotel's business card for return trip.
- Cross Boundary coaches provide transport across the border with China. Most services run 24/7. Service is every about every 10-20 minutes during the day and evening and every half hour or hour at night on most routes.
- In the New Territories, a modern, tram system links cities between Yuen Long and Tuen Mun.
- Hong Kong Tramways oversees a network of older, double-decker trams between Kennedy Town and Shau Kei Wan. Trams travel on 6 main routes; open daily from 6:00 am to midnight. Service is every 1-2 minutes during peak travel times. Frequency of service changes to meet demand. Transport is slow and bumpy. The trams are not air conditioned. Fares are low: \$2 for adults and \$1 for senior citizens and children regardless of distance traveled. Board trams at the rear. Pay when disembarking from the front. Use Octopus cards or cash. Customer hotline is available 24/7. Phone: (852) 2548 7102; email to [enquiry@hktramways.com](mailto:enquiry@hktramways.com).
  - Main routes: Shau Kei Wan to Western Market, Shau Kei Wan to Happy Valley, North Point to Whitty Street, Happy Valley to Kennedy Town, Causeway Bay to Kennedy Town and Western Market to Kennedy Town.
  - Peak Tram, linking Central to Victoria Peak, is Hong Kong's oldest tram. Fare is high. Buy ticket in advance.
  - Map of east-bound trams; website: [www.hktramways.com/en/service/routemap.html](http://www.hktramways.com/en/service/routemap.html).
  - Map of west-bound trams; website: [www.hktramways.com/en/service/routemap2.html](http://www.hktramways.com/en/service/routemap2.html).
- Mass Transit Railway (MTR) is the fastest way to travel and the most frequently used form of public transport. Signs are in Chinese and English. Announcements are made in Cantonese, Mandarin and English. MRT trains are often extremely overcrowded during rush hour.
- There are 10 MRT lines, including the Airport Express.
  - Tsuen Wan Line (red) is heavily used. Links Hong Kong Island's Central district with Kowloon. Runs under Nathan Road towards Tsuen Wan in the New Territories.
  - Island Line (blue) runs along Hong Kong's northern coast.
  - Tung Chung Line (orange) is the fastest route to Lantau, location of Hong Kong International Airport. Take MRT to Tung Chung MRT station and transfer to KCR's Tung Chung Line.
  - East Rail Line (light blue) to Shenzhen, China.
- Kowloon Canton Railway (KCR) is operated by MRT. One route passes through Lo Wu, one of Hong Kong's border crossings with Shenzhen, China (PRC).
- Airport Express Tourist Transport Pass: Provides one trip on the Airport Express, 3 days of unlimited travel on MRT. Valid for 3 years. Current cost: \$220 each or \$300 for two. Adding money to the card makes it usable on buses, trams and most ferries. When departing, return the card to get back a \$50 deposit or keep the card.
- Octopus cards provide instant electronic access to all forms of public transport, except most red-top minibuses and taxis. Tap the card on the reader to pay fare. The cards are also accepted by most convenience stores, restaurant chains, parking meters and parking garages. Fares are lower on some MRT and bus routes when payment is made by Octopus card.
  - If using ferries, MRT, buses or minibuses daily, Octopus cards lower transport expenses.
  - Minimum cost of the cards is \$150, which includes a \$50 refundable deposit. Maximum value the cards can carry is \$1,000. If card is returned in less than three months, a \$7 charge is subtracted from the deposit.
  - Refill the cards at customer service desks in MRT stations or at Add Value machines, located near regular ticket machines in MRT stations. Machines only accept cash.
  - When the card is used on the Central to Mid-Levels escalator, \$2 is added to it.



## TAXIS

- Taxis are readily available. Fares are based on distance traveled and are low, compared to other big cities around the world. No surcharge at night, but an extra fee applies for luggage. Fare includes all tolls. Tipping is not expected, but is welcome.
- Taxis can be hailed. They are easiest to board on side streets, at hotels, or at taxi stands near bus stops. If a taxi is available during the day, it will have a red “For Hire” flag raised. At night, the taxi sign on the roof will be lit.
- Taxis are in high demand during shift changes or if it is raining.
- Taxis cannot pick up passengers on streets that have a double yellow line. On streets with a single yellow line, passengers can be picked up from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.
- Taxi drivers do not give change for notes greater than \$100.
- Many drivers do not speak English. Have your destination written in Chinese. Ask hotel receptionist for the hotel’s business card for return trip.
- On Hong Kong Island and Kowloon, taxis are red; in the New Territories, taxis are green.
- Types of taxis:
  - Urban taxis (red with a cream roof): Can provide service anywhere in Hong Kong, except in South Lantau, Tung Chung Road and Discovery Bay Tunnel.
  - New Territories taxis (green with a cream roof): Can only operate in the New Territories. Fares are somewhat lower than urban taxi fares.
  - Lantau taxis (light blue with a cream roof): Provide transport only on Lantau Island (with the exception of Discovery Bay) and in Check Lap Kok. Only Lantau taxis can operate in South Lantau.
- All types of taxis go to Hong Kong International Airport.
- If you have problems on a taxi ride, note a taxi driver’s license number and call the police hotline at 2527-7177.

## RENTAL CARS

- Few people use rental cars in Hong Kong, due to difficult driving conditions and the scarcity of parking. A rental vehicle may be necessary when traveling to remote areas on Lantau or in the New Territories.
- Driver must have a valid driving license from resident country or an IDP.

- Minimum age to rent a vehicle through most agencies is 25.
- Rental fees are high. Even small cars are over \$600 per day.
- A large, refundable deposit and third party insurance are required.

## MOTORCYCLES & BICYCLES

- Cycling in urban areas is not recommended, due to congested traffic conditions.
- Traffic laws apply to all vehicles, including bicycles.
- Cycling while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal. Avoid cycling if prescription over-the-counter medications affect your ability to negotiate traffic safely.
- Use hand signals when turning or slowing down.
- Ride single file, unless passing another cyclist.
- Cyclists are not permitted to carry passengers.
- Do not use earphones for any electronic device while cycling.
- Do not ride the wrong way on one-way streets or on the right side of two-way streets.
- Cycling is not permitted in tunnels or on expressways.
- Children under 11 years old must be accompanied by an adult when riding on the roads.
- Use cycle lanes or cycleways, when available.
- Cyclists may use bus lanes, unless there is a sign prohibiting cycling. Ride close to the curb to allow buses to pass. Watch for pedestrians, stepping into the bus lane and for drivers, pulling into the lane to avoid a collision.
- Riding multi-cycles is restricted to designated areas and cycle tracks.
- Signs indicate sections of streets too steep to cycle safely. Dismounting and walking up the hill is recommended. A second sign marks the end of the restricted section.
- Road signs concerning cyclists:

- Multi-cycles permitted:



- No cycling. Dismount and push bike.







- End of no cycling zone:
- Cycling is banned. Signs often before elevated roads, underpasses and flyovers. Do not push or ride bike



past either of these signs:

- When using a pedestrian crossing, dismount and walk cycle across the crossing.
- Stop at “Green man” crossings and wait at the “Stop” line when the light is red. Proceed on green, if the road is clear. Yield to pedestrians still in the crossing.
- Wearing bright, light-colored, fluorescent or reflective clothing reduces road crash risk.
- Crossing the border to Shenzhen:
  - Cyclists can cross any land border with Shenzhen, but entry procedures are easiest at the Lo Wu crossing. Cyclists may also cross by ferry. Cycling to or from Hong Kong’s International Airport is difficult.
  - Cycles are not permitted on “Yellow Buses.” There may be a charge (about \$30) to take a cycle on a cross-boundary bus. Must load and unload the cycle yourself.
  - Cycles are permitted on the train linking Hong Kong’s city center and Lo Wu border crossing. Remove front wheel. Charge is \$20-\$40, depending on time of day.
  - Use Sha Tau Kok border crossing when traveling east of Guangdong.

## HIKING AND CAMPING

- Starting points of several hiking trails can be reached by bus or taxi. The trails are steep. Hiking is strenuous, especially in summer. For less experienced or less fit hikers, some trails have bus or taxi transport to highest point of the trail. Hikers return on the route’s downhill section.
- Wear suitable clothing, bring sufficient water and food. Mosquitoes are abundant; bring insect spray. Take litter home. Avoid using trash bins in remote areas, as animals may scatter it around.
- Four major trails:
  - Lantau Trail on Lantau Island.
  - Hong Kong Trail on Hong Kong Island
  - Maclehorse Trail on New Territories. The trail spans the country. Starts in Sai Kung and ends in Tuen Mum.

- Wilson Trail: Starting on Hong Kong Island and finishes in the New Territories.

## TRAIN TRAVEL

- Rail service is highly developed. Expansion of train services is ongoing.
- Kowloon Southern Link (KSL) links East Tsim Sha Tsui Station on the East Rail Line) with the Nam Cheong Station on the West Rail Line. Service runs every 3 minutes during rush hours and every 3.5 minutes in non-rush hours. Travel time between Tuen Mun and Tsim Sha Tsui has dropped by over 20 minutes. The line opened Aug. 16, 2009.
- MRT passenger trains link Hung Hom Station on Kowloon with Guangdong Province, Beijing and Shanghai.

## FERRY TRAVEL

- Ferries provide transport to popular destinations, including many of Hong Kong’s smaller islands.
- There are two types of ferries: fast ferries and slow ferries. Journey times are about half as long on fast ferries as on slow ferries, but fares for fast ferries are double. Octopus cards can be used to pay fare. Fares increase 50% on Sundays and public holidays.
- Ferry travel to China: Two Hong Kong ferry terminals provide transport to Macau, China:
  - Hong Kong Macau Ferry Terminal, in Shun Tak Centre of the Central District on Hong Kong Island. Bus and minibus terminals are near the ferry terminal.
  - China Ferry Terminal, on Kowloon’s Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront near Harbor City. Catamarans provide transport to Macau.
- Express buses provide transport between Macau International Airport and Macau Ferry Terminal.

## CRIME & SECURITY

- The crime rate is low. Exercise normal precautions for traveling in a large city.
- Avoid discussing political issues.



## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

### TOURIST ASSISTANCE

- Nationwide emergency number for police, fire or ambulance is #999. Calls are free.
- The availability of roadside and ambulance assistance is good.
- When a breakdown occurs, get vehicle as far off the road as possible. Turn on four-way flashers, place an emergency triangle at rear of vehicle, move a safe distance from the road and call for help.
- Emergency phones are provided along some expressways and in tunnels. Use the phone to get breakdown assistance or when an emergency occurs. The phones connect to police or tunnel control centers.
- Police with red patches on their uniforms speak English.
- The Hong Kong Tourism Board's website includes a digital map of Hong Kong. Website: [www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/trip-planner/hongkong-maps.html](http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/trip-planner/hongkong-maps.html). The map has the Chinese characters for streets and locations.
- The Hong Kong Tourist Association office In New York City, email: [hktanyc@hkta.org](mailto:hktanyc@hkta.org) and website: [www.hkta.org.usa](http://www.hkta.org.usa).
- Phone directory assistance is free. Dial #1081.
- Tourist facilities are widely available.
- Gas is expensive. Approximate prices: Super unleaded, \$14.48 per liter; regular unleaded, \$13.48 per liter; diesel, \$8.86 per liter; liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG), \$3.29 per unit. Credit cards accepted.

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

- The risk of a major earthquake in Hong Kong is low.
- Floods and landslides are possible during the rainy season (April to September). Warnings of possible floods and landslides are issued by the Hong Kong Observatory.
- The Government is actively implementing a series of major drainage improvement works to reduce flooding problems in northern New Territories, western and eastern Kowloon and northern Hong Kong Island.

### MEDICAL CARE

- Medical facilities are excellent. Many western-trained doctors practice in Hong Kong.
- Few ambulance personnel are paramedics. Most are trained only to first responder level and can provide basic stabilization treatment during transport.
- Hospitals open 24 hours daily:
  - Queen Mary Hospital, 102 Pok Fu Lam Road, Hong Kong. Has a trauma center. Phone: 852 2855 3838
  - Queen Elizabeth Hospital, 30 Gascoigne Road, Kowloon. Has a trauma center. Phone: 852 2958 8888
  - Prince of Wales Hospital, 30-32 Ngan Shing Street, Sha Tin, New Territories, Phone: 852 2632 2211.
  - Hong Kong Adventist Hospital, 40 Stubbs Road, Hong Kong. Phone: (852) 2574-6211, fax: (852) 2572-9813 and website: [www.hkah.org.hk/](http://www.hkah.org.hk/). The hospital provides 24-hour emergency care.
- Many hotels have a resident doctor.
- Comprehensive travel insurance, including coverage for emergency medical evacuation, is recommended. U.S. medical insurance is not always valid in other countries. Check with insurer.
- Medicare and Medicaid do not cover medical expenses rendered outside the U.S. Medigap policies, plans C through J, cover 80 percent of what Medicare would cover in the U.S. for the first 60 days of each trip; a \$250 deductible applies. Maximum lifetime limit of \$50,000. Medicare Advantage may offer coverage for care abroad. Phone: 800-633-4227; website: [www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/11037.pdf](http://www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/11037.pdf).



### EMBASSY INFORMATION

- For information on Hong Kong, contact the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, 2300 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington D.C. 20008. Phone: (202) 328-2500. Website: [www.china-embassy.org](http://www.china-embassy.org).
- Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of The People's Republic of China. There are three geographical areas: the New Territories, Kowloon Peninsula, and Hong Kong Island. Many residents speak at least some English.
- Updated information on travel and security conditions in Hong Kong is available from the US Consulate General, 26 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong. Mailing address: PSC 461, Box 5, FPO AP 96521-0006. Phone: (852) 2523-9011, fax: (852) 2845-4845, 24-hour emergency phone: 852-2841-2230 and website: [www.hongkong.usconsulate.gov/](http://www.hongkong.usconsulate.gov/).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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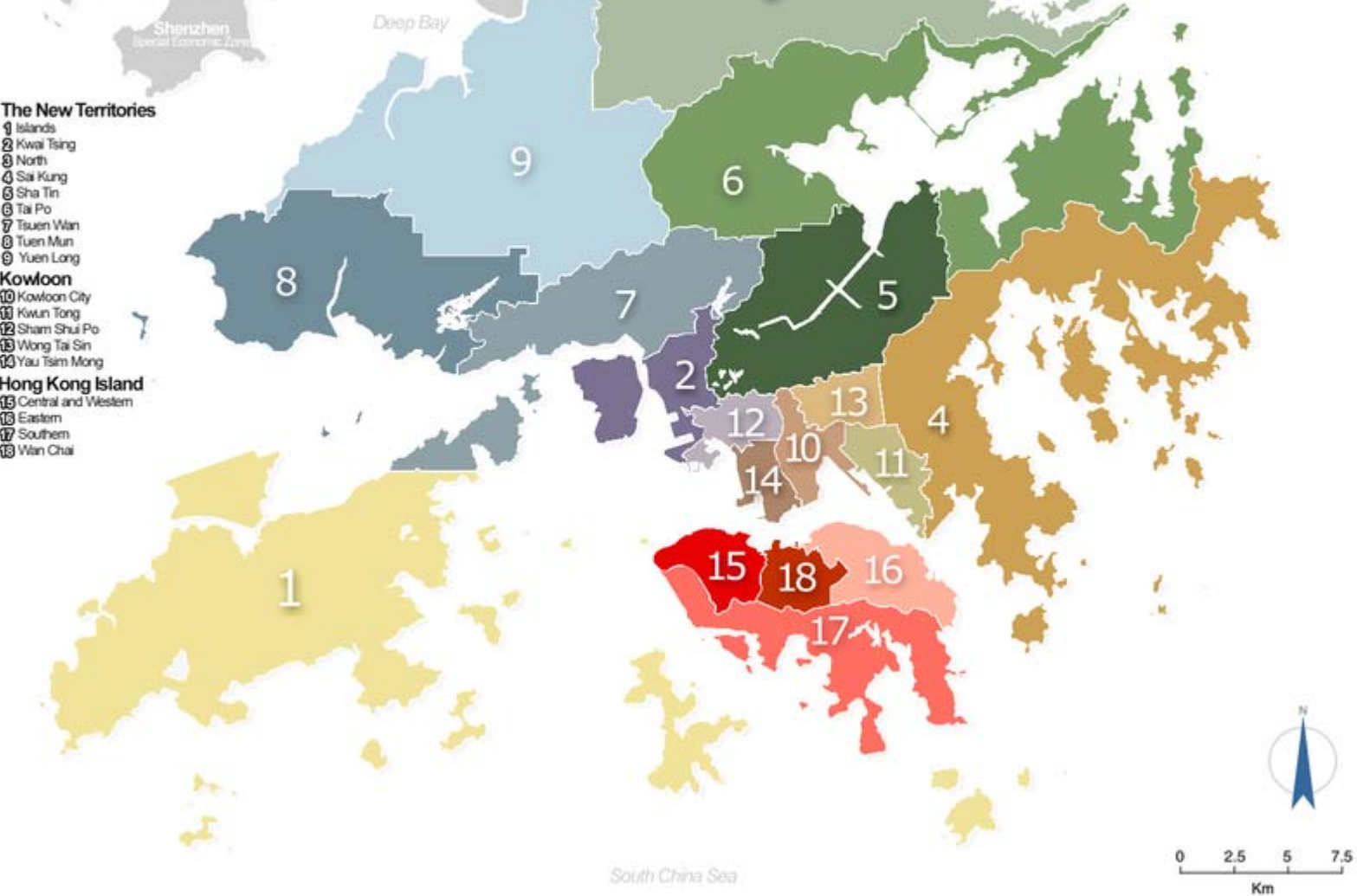
ASIRT is a non-profit humanitarian organization established in memory of Aron Sobel, age 25, who was killed along with 22 other passengers in a Pamukkale Bus Company crash on the roads of Turkey. © ASIRT 2009

Disclaimer: ASIRT provides this information as a service to the traveling public. This report is intended to represent general road conditions, driving environment, quality of public transportation, medical care and emergency response. It may not be totally accurate in a specific location or circumstance.



# Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

## Administrative Map



- The New Territories**
- 1 Islands
  - 2 Kwai Tsing
  - 3 North
  - 4 Sai Kung
  - 5 Sha Tin
  - 6 Tai Po
  - 7 Tsuen Wan
  - 8 Tuen Mun
  - 9 Yuen Long
- Kowloon**
- 10 Kowloon City
  - 11 Kwun Tong
  - 12 Sham Shui Po
  - 13 Wong Tai Sin
  - 14 Yau Tsim Mong
- Hong Kong Island**
- 15 Central and Western
  - 16 Eastern
  - 17 Southern
  - 18 Wan Chai

- Key:
- |                 |                   |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| New Territories | Kowloon           | Hong Kong Island        |
| 1. Islands      | 10. Kowloon City  | 15. Central and Western |
| 2. Kwai Tsing   | 11. Kwun Tong     | 16. Eastern             |
| 3. North        | 12. Sham Shui Po  | 17. Southern            |
| 4. Sai Kung     | 13. Wong Tai Sin  | 18. Wan Chai            |
| 5. Sha Tin      | 14. Yau Tsim Mong |                         |
| 6. Tai Po       |                   |                         |
| 7. Tsuen Wan    |                   |                         |
| 8. Tuen Mun     |                   |                         |
| 9. Yuen Long    |                   |                         |