

Hong Kong Country Guide

Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to Hong Kong Tourist Entry Requirements

Australian ordinary passport holders do not usually require a visa to enter Hong Kong as a tourist for a period not exceeding 90 days. Passports should be valid for six months beyond the period of intended stay. Travellers should also be able to show documentation confirming their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay, as well as tickets and entry documents for their onward destination.

Additional conditions may apply to minors. Travellers are recommended to contact a Hong Kong representative on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible to enter Hong Kong without a visa.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a traveller's individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Hong Kong. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against hepatitis B. Vaccination against typhoid should be considered particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to Hong Kong should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit smartraveller.gov.au/tips.

Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise normal safety precautions in Hong Kong. Use common sense. Look out for suspicious behaviour. You may encounter demonstrations or protests. Avoid large public gatherings as they may turn violent. See [Safety and security](#). Typhoon season is May to October. Monitor weather forecasts and local media, including the [Hong Kong Observatory](#). Plan accordingly and follow the instructions of local emergency officials. See [Natural disasters](#). Be alert to scams: some Australians have been tricked into giving scammers money or carrying their belongings, including on international flights. See [Safety and security](#).

Penalties for serious drug offences in Hong Kong are severe. Each year foreigners are arrested for trafficking drugs. See [Laws](#). If you arrive in Hong Kong from a country affected by Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) authorities will screen you for diseases on arrival. See [Health](#).

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Hong Kong at smartraveller.gov.au.

Hong Kong Representatives in Australia and Abroad

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Sydney

Level 1, 80 Druitt St
SYDNEY, NSW 2000

Tel: (02) 9283 3222
Fax: (02) 9283 3818

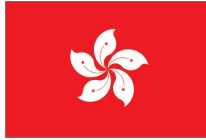
Web: hketosydney.gov.hk

Hong Kong Immigration Department, Hong Kong

2nd Floor, Immigration Tower
7 Gloucester Road
WAN CHAI

Tel: (+852) 2824 6111 (24 hours)

Web: immd.gov.hk/eng



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Time differences between Hong Kong and Australia

Hong Kong is Greenwich Mean Time +8 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone in Hong Kong is called Hong Kong Time (HKT).

Hong Kong, 12 noon, Jun = Perth 12 noon; Adelaide, Darwin 1:30pm; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 2pm.

Hong Kong, 12 noon, Dec = Perth 12 noon; Darwin 1:30pm; Brisbane 2pm; Adelaide 2:30pm; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 3pm.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Hong Kong: +852

To Dial Australia Call:

0080 - Hutchison Phones

001 - HKCWT Phones (most phone booths)

009 - New World Phones

Followed by 61 <City> <Number>

Australian Reverse Charges Direct:

800 960 061

Travelex Card Services: 800 964453

Visa Global Assistance: 800 900 782

MasterCard: 800 966 677

American Express Travellers Cheques:

300 21275

Emergency Services:

999

Hong Kong Tourist Association:

2807 6543

Telephone Directory (English):

1081

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation to Hong Kong

Australian Consulate General, Hong Kong

23/F Harbour Centre

25 Harbour Road

WAN CHAI

Tel: (+85) 2 2827 8881

Fax: (+85) 2 2585 4457

Web: hongkong.china.embassy.gov.au

Australian Embassy, Beijing

21 Dongzhimenwai Dajie

Sanlitun

BEIJING 100600

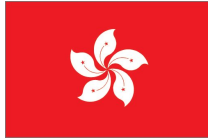
Tel: (+86) 10 5140 4111

Fax: (+86) 10 5140 4204

Web: china.embassy.gov.au

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians in Hong Kong are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Consulate General, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at oraو.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances for Hong Kong and Australia

Allowances when entering Hong Kong:

Alcohol: 1 L of alcoholic beverages.
 Tobacco: 19 cigarettes or 1 cigar or 25 g of tobacco.
 Perfume: Reasonable amounts for personal use.

Allowances when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Tax Free Goods: Up to \$900 (\$450 for minors).

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting Hong Kong and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For information on Hong Kong customs visit customs.gov.hk, or for information on Australian customs visit border.gov.au.

Electrical Adaptors and Voltage

Electrical Socket type: British (type G).

Supply: 220-240 V, 50 Hz (same as Australia).

A voltage converter will generally not be required to use appliances designed for Australia.

A socket converter is usually all that will be required for these appliances.

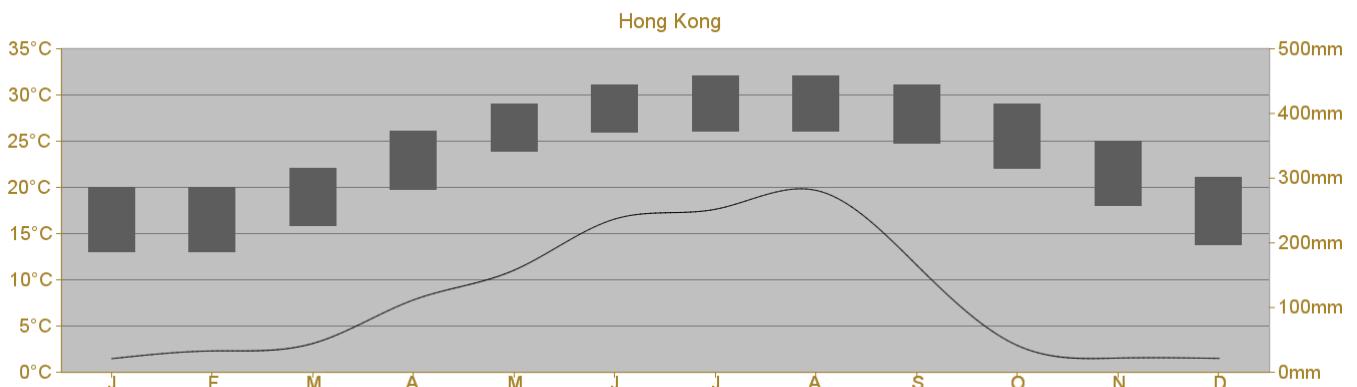


Hong Kong Holidays 2018

General Holidays

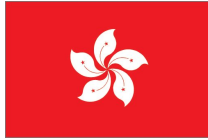
01 Jan:	New Year's Day	18 Jun:	Tuen Ng Festival
16 Feb:	Lunar New Year	01/02 Jul:	Hong Kong Day
17-19 Feb:	New Year Holidays	25 Sep:	Mid-Autumn Fest.
30 Mar:	Good Friday	01 Oct:	National Day
02 Apr:	Easter Monday	17 Oct:	Chung Yeung Fest.
05 Apr:	Ching Ming Festival	25 Dec:	Christmas
01 May:	Labour Day	26 Dec:	Boxing Day
22 May:	Buddha's Birthday		

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Hong Kong



For local forecasts from the Hong Kong Observatory, please go to weather.gov.hk.

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Exchange Rate with Hong Kong

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 5.63 Hong Kong Dollars
 10 Hong Kong Dollars (HKD) = 1.78 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) buys 5.41 Hong Kong Dollars
 10 Hong Kong Dollars (HKD) will cost 1.85 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging these currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Purchasing Power Parity

The following is a purchasing-power comparison of the Hong Kong Dollar and the Australian Dollar, using the Big Mac as a common good. While it does not present a faultless comparison, it is a useful indicator of the purchasing power of each currency.

Big Mac Australia: \$5.95 (AUD) = 33 Hong Kong Dollars
 Big Mac Hong Kong: 20.50 (HKD) = 3.64 Australian Dollars

A Big Mac in Hong Kong is therefore 39% less expensive than in Australia.

This comparison is based on 2018 prices using current exchange rates. Prices may not include variations by locality or local taxes.

Currency Cheat Sheet

HK\$5 = \$0.92 AUD		This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.		HK\$1,000 = \$184.81 AUD	
HK\$10 = \$1.85 AUD	HK\$100 = \$18.48 AUD	HK\$200 = \$36.96 AUD	HK\$1,000 = \$184.81 AUD	HK\$2,000 = \$369.62 AUD	
HK\$30 = \$5.54 AUD	HK\$300 = \$55.44 AUD	HK\$400 = \$73.92 AUD	HK\$3,000 = \$554.44 AUD	HK\$4,000 = \$739.25 AUD	
HK\$40 = \$7.39 AUD	HK\$500 = \$92.41 AUD	HK\$600 = \$110.89 AUD	HK\$5,000 = \$924.06 AUD	HK\$6,000 = \$1,108.87 AUD	
HK\$50 = \$9.24 AUD	HK\$700 = \$129.37 AUD	HK\$800 = \$147.85 AUD	HK\$7,000 = \$1,293.69 AUD	HK\$9,000 = \$1,663.31 AUD	
HK\$60 = \$11.09 AUD	HK\$800 = \$147.85 AUD	HK\$900 = \$166.33 AUD	HK\$10,000 = \$1,848.12 AUD		
HK\$70 = \$12.94 AUD					
HK\$80 = \$14.78 AUD					
HK\$90 = \$16.63 AUD					

Money in Hong Kong

The legal currency of Hong Kong is the dollar (plural dollars), which is abbreviated using the symbol \$ or HK\$ (for example HK\$100). The following units of currency are the most common however other units are also in circulation (the following bank notes are produced by HSBC Bank, the Bank of China and Standard Chartered Bank also produce their own notes, however all versions apply the same colour scheme on each denomination). As it is against the Crimes Ordinance of Hong Kong to reproduce images of Hong Kong bank notes of any size or scale, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.

Octopus Card

The use of the Octopus Card has significantly reduced the use of coins in Hong Kong. An Octopus Card is a rechargeable stored value smart card that is used for small value transactions. An Octopus card can be used in many fast food restaurants, stores and on public transport. For more details on the Octopus Card, please go to octopus.com.hk/en.





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About Hong Kong

Full Name:	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.	Significant Dates:	50 bc - The region is absorbed into China.
Government:	Limited Democracy as a Special Administrative Region of The Peoples Republic of China.	1839-42	- The first Opium War between China and Britain.
Size:	1,104 sq km (50% the size of the ACT).	1842	- China cedes Hong Kong Island to Britain in perpetuity.
Population:	7.1 million (similar to New South Wales).	1860	- Kowloon ceded to Britain after the second Opium War.
Language:	Cantonese & English are the official languages.	1898	- The New Territories are leased to Britain for 99 years.
Religion:	Buddhism 22%, Taoism 14%, Christianity 12%.	1941	- Japan occupies Hong Kong during World War Two.
Ethnicity:	Chinese 93%, Filipino 2%, Indonesian 2%.	1945	- Britain re-establishes rule over Hong Kong.
GDP Per Capita:	\$52,700 (Australia US\$43,000).	1946-50	- Refugees flee the Chinese civil war into Hong Kong.
		1950's-80's	- Industrialisation and trade allows the economy to surge, Hong Kong becomes one of the "Asian Tigers".
		1984	- Britain agrees to return all of Hong Kong to China.
		1997	- Sovereignty of Hong Kong handed to China by Britain.
		2014	- Over 100,000 protest for greater democratic rights.

