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NEIGHBOURHOODS & ISLANDS

top picks

- **Tsim Sha Tsui East Promenade** (p95) Marvel at Hong Kong Island's nightly skyscraper light show.
- **The Peak Tram** (p78; see also p283) Hold on tight for a steep ascent.
- **The Peak** (p78) Admire the views on a walk around Victoria Peak's cooler climes.
- **The Star Ferry** (p91; see also p273) Still the single best and still the best-value Hong Kong experience.
- **Hong Kong Wetland Park** (p107) Skyscrapers at your back, serenity and nature in front.
- **Hiking on Lantau** (p134; see also p226) You may not see a soul on Lantau's wild ridges and coastal paths.
- **A seafood ramble on Lamma** (p131) Build an appetite on a leafy, traffic-free perambulation on low-rise Lamma Island.
- **Tian Tan Buddha** (p137) For a cost-free superlative.

NEIGHBOURHOODS & ISLANDS

Think of Hong Kong as being divided into four main areas: Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, the New Territories and the Outlying Islands.

The beating commercial and social heart of Hong Kong lies in the first two of these areas – the skyscraper-clad northern edge of Hong Kong Island and the busy commercial and residential district of Kowloon – which face each other across Victoria Harbour. Most of the museums, galleries and other places occupy either the northern side of Hong Kong Island or the southern tip of the Kowloon Peninsula. Beyond these heavily built-up areas, things thin out.

The land beyond this urban hub, most of it in the New Territories and the Outlying Islands, is generally far more sparsely populated and offers space, greenery and wilderness in abundance, something that surprises and delights many first-time visitors.

This chapter begins in Central on the northern side of Hong Kong Island. As its name implies, this district is where much of what happens (or is decided) in Hong Kong takes place; come here for business, sightseeing, upmarket transport options, and entertainment in the Lan Kwai Fong and Soho nightlife districts.

To the west and contiguous to Central is more traditional Sheung Wan, which manages to retain the feel of pre-war Hong Kong in parts. Rising above Central are the Mid-Levels residential area and the Peak, home to the rich, the famous and the indefatigable Peak Tram. To the east of Central are Admiralty, not much more than a cluster of office towers, hotels and shopping centres these days but still an important transport hub; Wan Chai, a seedy red-light district during the Vietnam War but now a popular entertainment area; and Causeway Bay, the most popular shopping district on Hong Kong Island.

On the southern edge of the island are small popular seaside towns, including Stanley – with its fashionable restaurants, cafés and famous market – and Aberdeen, Hong Kong's original settlement, where you can ride in a sampan (motorised launch) around the harbour or visit nearby Ocean Park, Hong Kong's home-grown amusement and theme park.

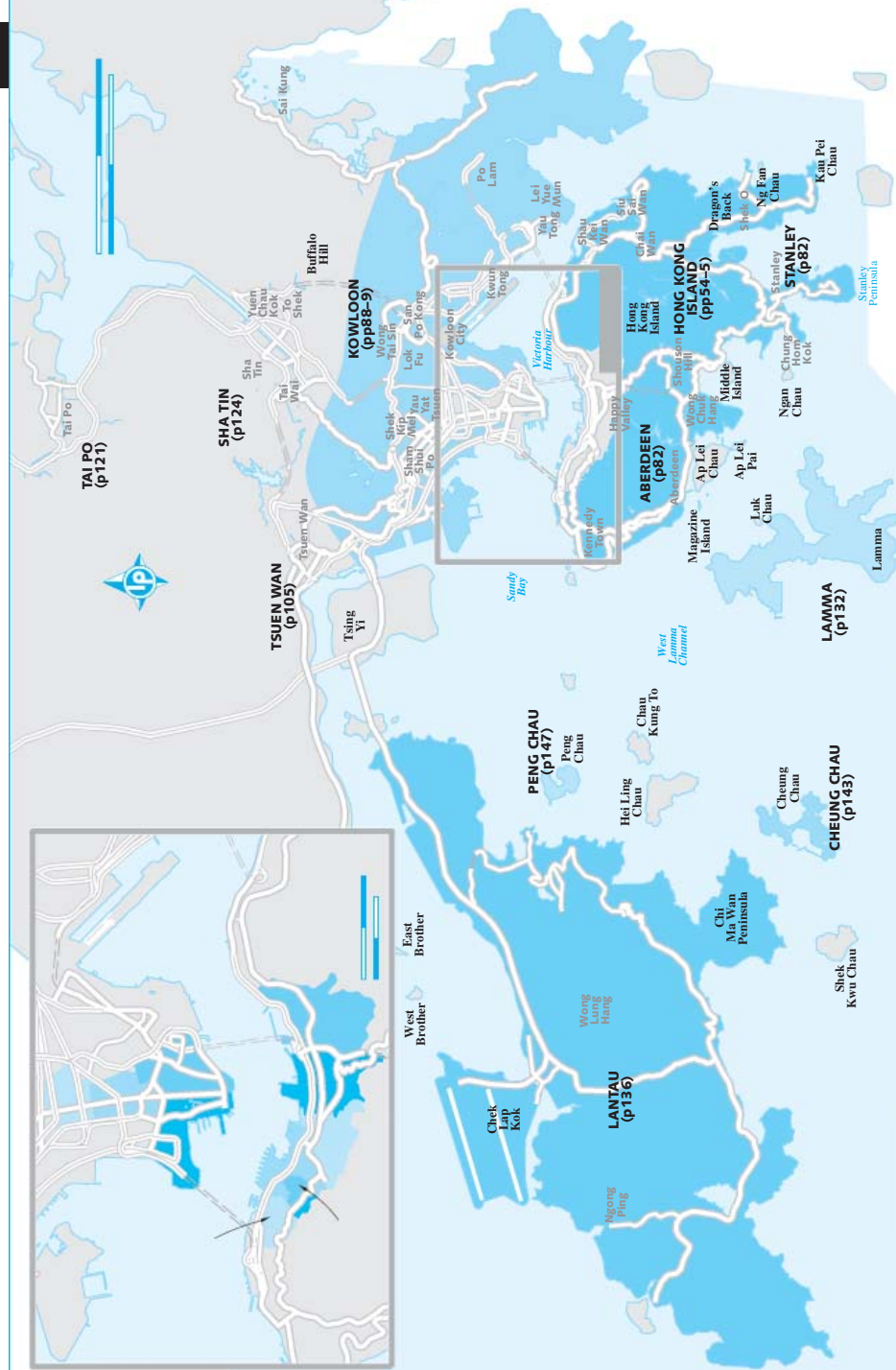
North of Hong Kong Island and across Victoria Harbour is Kowloon – its epicentre is the shopping and entertainment district Tsim Sha Tsui. To the east are Tsim Sha Tsui East and Hung Hom, awash with hotels and museums. North of Tsim Sha Tsui are the working-class areas of Yau Ma Tei – where you'll find pawnshops, outdoor markets, Chinese pharmacies, mahjong parlours and other retailers plying their time-honoured trades – and Mong Kok, a somewhat seedy district of street markets and brothels. Beyond are the districts of so-called New Kowloon, containing everything from cheap computers to Hong Kong's largest temple complex, Sik Sik Yuen Wong Tai Sin.

The New Territories, once Hong Kong's country playground, is today a mixed bag of housing estates and some surprisingly unspoiled rural areas and country parks. The area's New Towns are worth visiting for their temples, monasteries and/or museums hidden somewhere below all the skyscrapers. Don't miss the more tranquil areas either: old walled villages, mountains, important wetlands, forested nature reserves; and the idyllic Sai Kung Peninsula.

The Hong Kong archipelago counts hundreds of islands, most uninhabited. Among the so-called Outlying Islands accessible on a day trip from Hong Kong Island are: Cheung Chau, with its traditional village and fishing fleet; Lamma, celebrated for its restaurants and easy country walks; Lantau, the largest island of all, with excellent beaches and country trails; little Peng Chau, laid-back and something of a shopping mecca; Ma Wan and Tsing Yi, the 'anchors' for the two colossal bridges linking Lantau with the New Territories; Tung Lung Chau, with the remains of a 300-year-old fort; and Po Toi, a haven for seafood lovers.

The Transport boxes in this chapter provide quick reference for Mass Transit Rail (MTR), Kowloon-Canton Railway (KCR), Light Rail and bus stations, ferry piers and tram stops in each district. See further details in the Transport chapter, and for suggestions on the best maps and plans, see [p295](#).

'Think of Hong Kong as being divided into four main areas: Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, the New Territories and the Outlying Islands.'



ITINERARY BUILDER

Most of the sights, activities and eating and drinking attractions in Hong Kong are concentrated into a fairly tight area comprising of the northern edge of Hong Kong Island and the tip of Kowloon. Beyond these, things spread out into the larger and generally less built-up expanses of Hong Kong Island, the New Territories and the Outlying Islands.

HOW TO USE THIS TABLE

The table below allows you to plan a day's worth of activities in any area of the city. Simply select which area you wish to explore, and then mix and match from the corresponding listings to build your day. The first item in each cell represents a well-known highlight of the area, while the other items are more off-the-beaten-track gems.

| AREA | ACTIVITIES | Sightseeing | Museums, Galleries, Monuments & Temples | Outdoors | Shopping | Eating | Drinking & Nightlife |
|---------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| Central | | Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Building (p53) Bank of China Buildings (p58) Legislative Council Building (p60) | Hong Kong Monetary Authority Information Centre (p61) Hanart TZ Gallery (p35) | Graham St Market (p58) Hong Kong Zoological & Botanical Gardens (p58) Lan Kwai Fong & Soho (p67) | The Landmark (p162) Lok Cha Tea Shop (p163) IFC Mall (p162) | Yun Fu (p178) Sichuan Cuisine Da Ping Huo (p184) Lung King Heen (p177) | Drop (p214) |
| | Sheung Wan & the Mid-Levels | Man Mo Temple (p67) Tai Ping Shan Temples (p71) Queen's Road West Incense Shops (p70) | Dr Sun Yat Sen Museum (p77) Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences (p77) | Western Market (p70) Man Wa Lane (p71) Possession St (p71) | Hollywood Rd (p156) Cat St (p70) | Korea House Restaurant (p182) Gaia Ristorante (p182) Leung Hing Chiu Chow Seafood Restaurant (p183) | Barco (p208) Club 71 (p208) Rice Bar (p208) |
| | | Wan Chai & Causeway Bay | Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre (p64) Noonday Gun (p73) Golden Bauhinia (p64) | Hung Shing Temple (p67) | Victoria Park (p75) Happy Valley Racecourse (p79) | Times Square (p166) Walter Ma (p165) Island Beverley (p164) | Forum (p187) Kin's Kitchen (p189) |
| | Tsim Sha Tsui | Former KCR Clock Tower (p90) Nathan Road (p91) Peninsula Hong Kong (p91) | Hong Kong Museum of Art (p90) Hong Kong Museum of History (p95) Hong Kong Science Museum (p96) | Tsim Sha Tsui East Promenade (p95) Kowloon Park (p91) | Harbour City (p168) Curio Alley (p168) Alan Chan Creations (p168) | Nobu (p191) Hutong (p192) Tsui Wah (p182) | Aqua Spirit (p211) Balalaika (p211) Cloudnine (p216) |
| | Mong Kok, Yau Ma Tei & New Kowloon | Sik Sik Yuen Wong Tai Sin Temple (p102) Chi Lin Nunnery (p102) Jade Market (p98) | Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum (p100) Tin Hau Temple (p98) | Kowloon Walled City Park (p101) Lei Yue Mun (p102) Yuen Po St Bird Garden & Flower Market (p99) | Temple Street Night Market (p96) Festival Walk Shopping Centre (p170) Golden Computer Arcade (p170) | Ming Court (p194) | |
| | New Territories | Sha Tin Racecourse (p125) Yuen Yuen Institute (p105) Lung Yeuk Tau Heritage Trail (p119) | Hong Kong Heritage Museum (p125) Chinese University of Hong Kong Art Museum (p123) Sam Tung Uk Museum (p106) | Hong Kong Wetland Park (p107) Sai Kung Peninsula (p126) Tai Mo Shan (p106) | | Sun Keung Kee Roasted Goose & Seafood Restaurant (p197) Honeymoon Dessert (p197) Panda Café (p195) | The Duke (p212) Poets (p212) |
| | | The Outlying Islands | Ngong Ping (p135) Cheung Chau Village (p142) Lamma Family Trail (p131) | Pak Tai Temple (p144) | Lantau Peak (p137) Cheung Chau Walking Tour (p145) Lo So Shing Beach (p133) | | Stoep Restaurant (p201) Hometown Teahouse (p199) Rainbow Seafood Restaurant (p199) |

HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (SAR)



HONG KONG ISLAND

Hong Kong Island remains every bit as important to the territory as when Britain claimed it for the Empire in 1841. Its importance as the historical, political and economic centre of Hong Kong far outweighs its size (making up just over 7% of the territory's total land area and about a fifth of its population). Though a few old monuments have been preserved here, Hong Kong Island is overwhelmingly a metropolis of dazzling modernity.

Hong Kong's most important district is Central, the commercial heart of Hong Kong pumping away on the northern side of the island. Hong Kong counts its money and spends much of it conspicuously here. Most of the region's major businesses, government offices, many top-end hotels and restaurants, nightlife areas and exclusive residential neighbourhoods are found between Central to the west and Causeway Bay to the east. It is where you'll find the ex-governor's mansion, the stock exchange, the Legislative Council and High Court, the territory's premier shopping districts, the original horse-racing track and a host of other places that define Hong Kong's character.

One of the best ways to see the northern side of the island is to jump on one of the green double-decker trams that trundle between Kennedy Town in the west and Shau Kei Wan in the east. The southern side of Hong Kong Island has a totally different character to that of the north. The coast is dotted with fine beaches – including those at Big Wave Bay, Deep Water Bay, Shek O, Stanley and Repulse Bay – where the water is clean enough to swim.

CENTRAL

Drinking & Nightlife **p205**; Eating **p176**; Shopping **p156**; Sleeping **p250**

All visitors to Hong Kong inevitably pass through Central (**Map p56**) – sightseeing, shop-

ping, taking care of errands, en route to the bars and restaurants of Lan Kwai Fong and Soho, or boarding or getting off the Airport Express.

As Hong Kong's business centre, Central has some impressive architecture (**p37**). It's sky-

HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (SAR)

| INFORMATION | Lung Yeuk Tau Heritage Trail | ENTERTAINMENT (E) | (p219) |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--------|
| Lantau Link Visitors Centre | 龍躍頭文物徑.....19 E2 | Kwai Tsing Theatre 葵青劇院.....42 D4 | |
| 青嶼幹線訪客中心.....1 D4 | Miu Fat Monastery 妙法寺.....20 C3 | Yuen Long Theatre 元朗劇院.....43 C3 | |
| Lo Wu HKTB Centre | Ng Tung Chai Waterfall | | |
| 羅湖旅客諮詢及服務中心.....2 D1 | 梧桐寨瀑布.....21 E3 | SPORTS & ACTIVITIES (pp222-31) | |
| Plover Cove Country Park Visitor Centre | Ping Kong.....22 D2 | Clearwater Bay Golf & Country Club | |
| 船灣郊野公園遊客中心.....3 F2 | 屏山 Heritage Trail | 清水灣高爾夫球鄉村俱樂部.....44 G5 | |
| Princess Margaret Hospital | 屏山文物徑.....23 C3 | Hebe Haven Yacht Club | |
| 瑪嘉烈醫院.....4 E4 | Sha Tin Racecourse 沙田賽馬場.....24 E3 | 白沙灣遊艇會.....45 F4 | |
| Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre | Sheung Yiu Folk Museum | Hong Kong Golf Club (Fanling) | |
| 西貢郊野公園遊客中心.....5 G3 | 上窰民俗文物館.....25 G3 | 香港哥爾夫球會(粉嶺).....46 D2 | |
| Shing Mun Country Park Visitor Centre | Shui Tau Tsuen.....26 D2 | Jockey Club Kau Sai Chau Public Golf Course | |
| 城門郊野公園遊客中心.....6 E3 | Silverstrand Beach 銀線灣.....27 F4 | 賽馬會溜洲公眾高爾夫球場.....47 G4 | |
| SIGHTS (pp104-49) | Tai Miu Temple 太廟.....28 F5 | Sai Kung Ho Chung Driving Range | |
| 10,000 Buddhas Monastery | Tin Hau Temple 天后廟.....29 H1 | 西貢蠔涌高爾夫球訓練場.....48 F4 | |
| 萬佛寺.....7 E3 | Tin Hau Temple 天后廟.....30 A2 | Tai Mei Tuk Fish Farm | |
| Amah Rock 望夫石.....8 E4 | Tuen Mun Town Hall | 大美奇魚場.....49 F2 | |
| Chinese University of Hong Kong | 屯門大會堂.....31 B3 | Tai Mei Tuk Water Sports Centre | |
| 香港中文大學.....9 F3 | Tung Lung Fort 東龍洲炮台.....32 G5 | 大尾篤水上活動中心.....50 F2 | |
| Chinese University of Hong Kong Art Museum 香港中文大學文物館.(see 9) | EATING (E) (pp195-201) | Tuen Mun Public Riding School | |
| Ching Chung Temple 青松觀.....10 B3 | Asian Kitchen 亞洲廚房.....33 D4 | 屯門公眾騎術學校.....51 B4 | |
| Clearwater Bay First & Second | Cafe Lagoon 聆瀾咖啡廳.....34 C3 | Wong Shek Water Sports Centre | |
| Beaches 清水灣一灘及二灘.....11 F5 | Chung Shing Thai Restaurant | 黃石水上活動中心.....52 G3 | |
| Fanling Market 粉嶺街市.....12 E2 | 忠誠茶座泰國菜.....35 F2 | SLEEPING (S) (pp264-5) | |
| Fung Ying Sin Temple 蓬瀛仙館.....13 E2 | Little Egret Restaurant | Bradbury Hall | |
| Hong Kong University of Science & Technology 香港科技大學.....14 F4 | 小白鷺餐廳.....36 E3 | 西貢赤徑白普理堂.....53 G3 | |
| Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden | Ming Kee Seafood Restaurant | Bradbury Lodge | |
| 嘉道理農場暨植物園.....15 D3 | 明記海鮮酒家.....37 F6 | 大尾篤白普理園賽馬會旅舍.....54 F2 | |
| Kat Hing Wai 青霞園.....16 D3 | Miu Fat Monastery 妙法寺齋菜.(see 20) | Pak Sha O Hostel | |
| Lam Tsuen Wishing Tree | Nang Kee Goose Restaurant | 白沙澳青年旅舍.....55 G2 | |
| 林村許願樹.....17 E2 | 能記.....38 D3 | Sze Lok Yuen Hostel 施樂園.....56 D3 | |
| Lions Nature Education Centre | New Hon Kee 新漢記.....39 A2 | | |
| 獅子會自然教育中心.....18 F3 | Pak Heung Kwun Yum Temple | | |
| | 八鄉觀音古廟.....40 D3 | | |
| | Tai Wing Wah 大榮華酒樓.....41 C2 | | |

scrapers can be quite magnificent, especially at night when they put on a lightshow. There's also an assortment of historical civic buildings, churches parks and gardens.

The district was originally named Victoria, after the British sovereign who had ascended to the throne just two years before a naval landing party hoisted the British flag at Possession Point west of here in 1841. But as the 'capital' of the territory, it has been called Central at least since WWII.

Above Central the residential Mid-Levels cling to steep, jungle-clad hill sides; above these soars Victoria Peak, home to the super-rich and a great place from which to look back down on Central.

Though very much open to debate, Central's limits are Garden Rd to the east, somewhere between the disused Central Market and Wing On Centre to the west, Caine Rd and the Hong Kong Zoological & Botanical Gardens to the south, and the harbour to the north.

Central's main thoroughfares going west to east are Connaught Rd Central, Des Voeux Rd Central and Queen's Rd Central. Important streets running (roughly) south (ie uphill) from the harbour are Garden Rd, Ice House St, Pedder St and Pottinger St.

The best way to view Central is from a Star Ferry as it crosses the harbour from Kowloon.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANK (HSBC) BUILDING **Map p56**

1 Queen's Rd Central; MTR Central (exit K)

Fittingly, the statue of Sir Thomas Jackson in Statue Square is gazing at the stunning headquarters of what is now HSBC (formerly the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank) headquarters, designed by British architect Sir Norman Foster in 1985. The two bronze lions guarding the bank's main entrance were designed by British sculptor WW Wagstaff to mark the opening of the bank's previous headquarters in 1935; the lions are known as Stephen – to the left as you face them – and Stitt, after two bank employees of the time. The Japanese used the lions as target practice during the occupation; you can still see bullet holes on Stitt.

The Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Building is a masterpiece of precision, sophistication and innovation. And why not? It was the world's most expensive building (it cost upward of US\$1 billion) when it opened in 1985. The building reflects architect Sir Norman's wish to create areas

top picks

HONG KONG IN A DAY

Introduction

High-rises and mountain peaks overlooking a harbour thick with ferries and junks, Hong Kong is a wealth of cultural delights coupled with the familiarity of the Western world.

Tsim Sha Tsui – start here

On the southern tip of Kowloon, facing the sparkling high-rises of Hong Kong island, this is the perfect start and end place for your day. Jump on the timeless Star Ferry and head over to the island while enjoying the harbour views.

Island by Bus – a cheap thrill ride

Take a bus from Central heading towards Stanley. This hair-raising ride gives you a cheap tour of much of the island.

Stanley Market – bargain souvenirs

Although touristy, Stanley Market is a great place for souvenirs. Wander along the waterfront when you tire of the crowds, then jump back on a bus to Central.

Victoria Peak – spectacular view

Walk from Central to the Peak Tram and enjoy the most spectacular view over Hong Kong city and Kowloon. For a different angle take the bus back down, then take a stroll in the Central area and enjoy the city ambience.

Kowloon – the cultural heart

As the day moves on, Kowloon becomes a vibrant mix of coloured neon and mesmerising markets. Take the MTR to Mong Kok and head south. Nathan Rd is the main strip, but the backstreets contain the hidden delights.

Not Exhausted Yet?

Ride a sampan in Aberdeen; go bargain electronics shopping in Mong Kok; enjoy a change of pace on Lamma Island; lose a fortune in Macau; or find your spiritual side at the Po Lin Monastery on Lantau Island.

doyley

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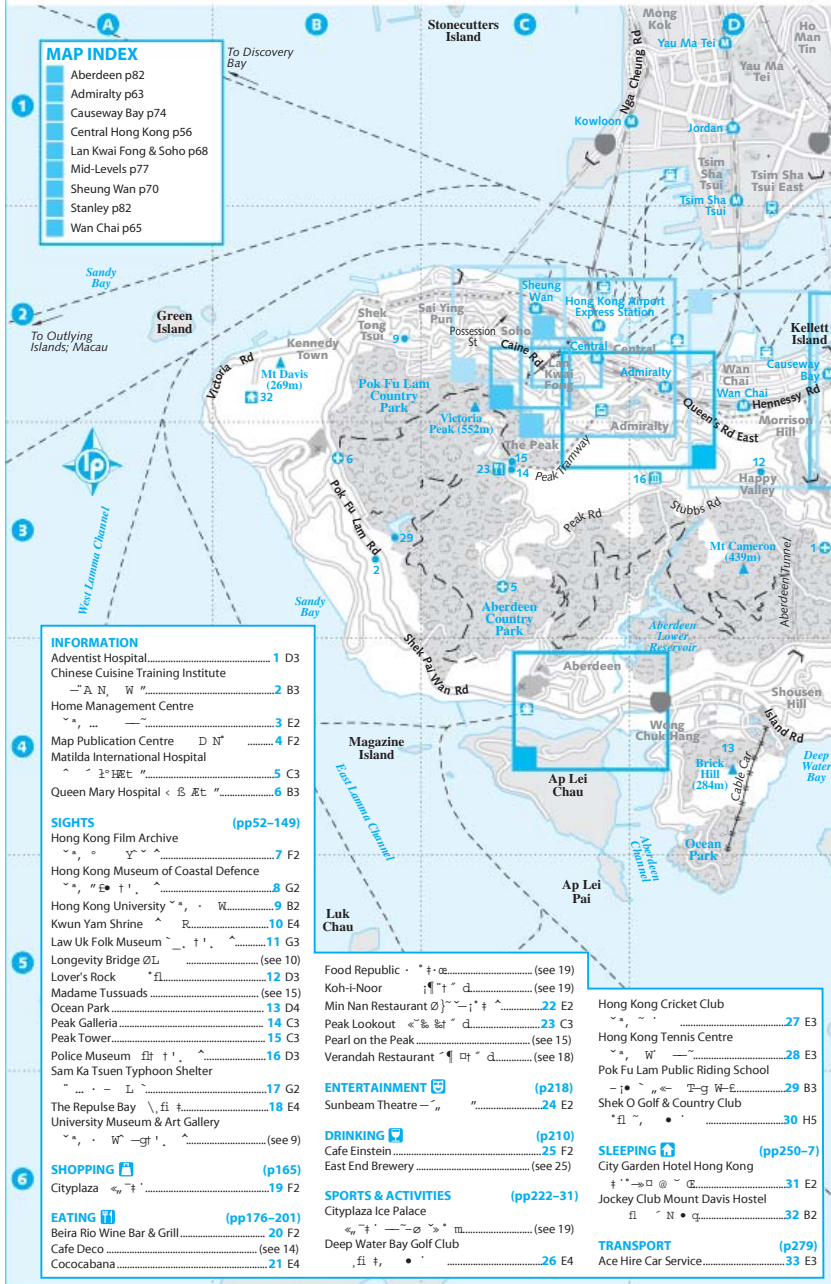
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of public and private space and to break the mould of previous bank architecture. The ground floor is public space, which people can traverse without entering the

HONG KONG ISLAND

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- 7 Sheung Wan p70
- 8 Stanley p82
- 9 Wan Chai p65



INFORMATION

- 1 D3 Adventist Hospital
- 2 B3 Chinese Cuisine Training Institute
- 3 E2 Home Management Centre
- 4 F2 Map Publication Centre
- 5 C3 Matilda International Hospital
- 6 B3 Queen Mary Hospital

SIGHTS

- (pp52-149) Hong Kong Film Archive
- 7 F2 Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence
- 8 G2 Hong Kong University
- 9 B2 Kwun Yam Shrine
- 10 E4 Law Uk Folk Museum
- 11 G3 Longevity Bridge
- (see 10) Lover's Rock
- 12 D3 Madame Tussauds
- (see 15) Ocean Park
- 13 D4 Peak Galleria
- 14 C3 Peak Tower
- 15 C3 Police Museum
- 16 D3 Sam Ka Tsuen Typhoon Shelter
- 17 G2 The Repulse Bay
- 18 E4 University Museum & Art Gallery

SHOPPING

- (p165) Cityplaza
- (p176-201) Beira Rio Wine Bar & Grill
- 20 F2 Cafe Deco
- (see 14) Cococabana
- 21 E4

- (see 19) Food Republic
- (see 19) Koh-i-Noor
- 22 E2 Min Nan Restaurant
- 23 C3 Peak Lookout
- (see 15) Pearl on the Peak
- (see 18) Verandah Restaurant

ENTERTAINMENT

- (p218) Sunbeam Theatre

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- (p210) Cafe Einstein
- (see 25) East End Brewery

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

- (pp222-31) Cityplaza Ice Palace
- (see 19) Deep Water Bay Golf Club
- 26 E4

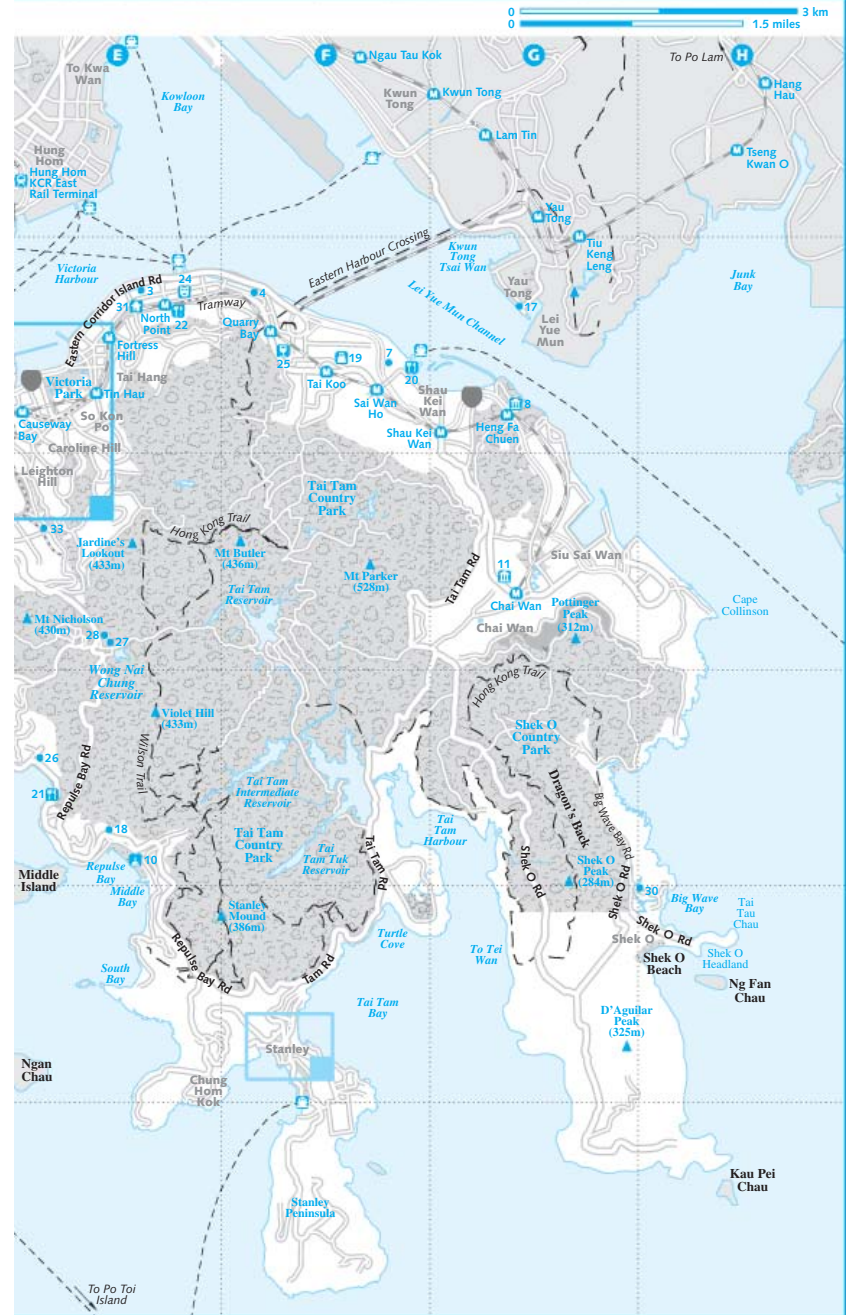
- 27 E3 Hong Kong Cricket Club
- 28 E3 Hong Kong Tennis Centre
- 29 B3 Pok Fu Lam Public Riding School
- 30 H5 Shek O Golf & Country Club

SLEEPING

- (pp250-7) City Garden Hotel Hong Kong
- 31 E2 Jockey Club Mount Davis Hostel
- 32 B2

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- (p279) Ace Hire Car Service
- 33 E3



- 19 Sai Wah Ho
- 20 Shau Kei Wan
- 21 Repulse Bay
- 22 North Point
- 23 Victoria Park
- 24 Eastern Harbour Crossing
- 25 Quarry Bay
- 26 Repulse Bay
- 27 Mt Nicholson
- 28 Wong Nai Chung Reservoir
- 29 Repulse Bay
- 30 Shek O Peak
- 31 North Point
- 32 Stanley
- 33 Jardine's Lookout

SHOPPING

- (p165) Cityplaza
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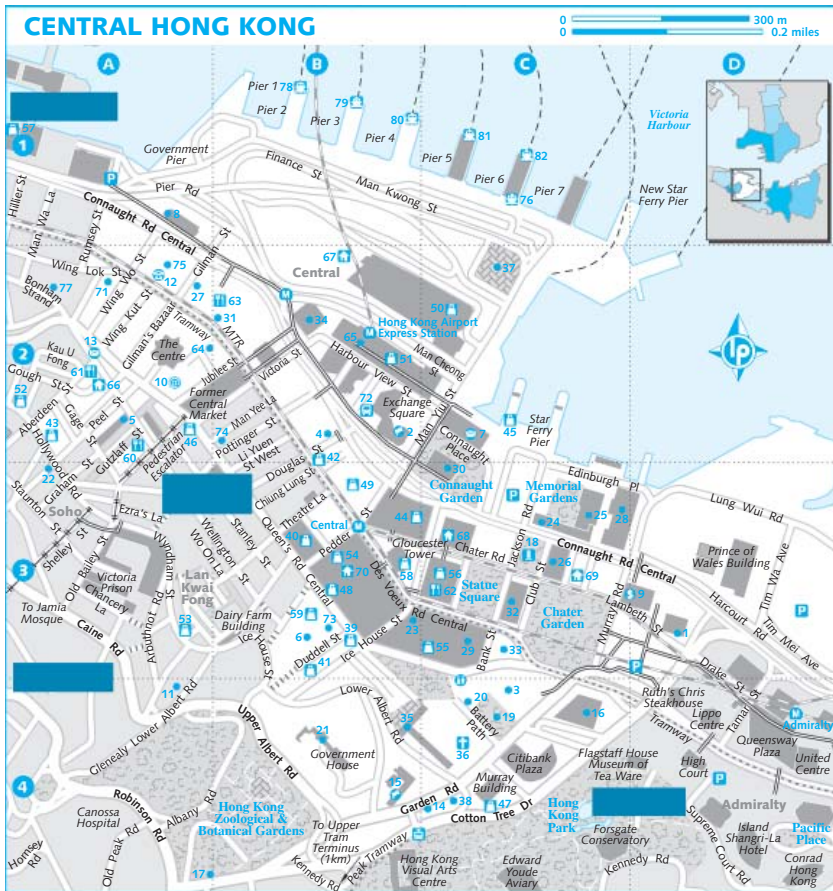
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building; from there, escalators rise to the main banking hall. The building is inviting to enter – not guarded or off limits. Hong Kong Chinese, irreverent as always, call the 52-storey glass and aluminium structure the ‘Robot Building’.

It’s worth taking the **escalator** (🚶 9am–4.30pm Mon–Fri, 9am–12.30pm Sat) to the 3rd floor to gaze at the cathedral-like atrium and the natural light filtering through its windows.

STATUE SQUARE Map p56

MTR Central (exit K)
Statue Square, due south of Star Ferry pier, is divided roughly in half by Charter Rd. In the northern part, reached via a pedestrian underpass from the pier, is the **Centotaph** (Greek for ‘empty tomb’; 1923), a

memorial to Hong Kong residents killed during the two world wars. Due west is the venerable **Mandarin Oriental** (p251), which opened in 1963 and is consistently voted the best hotel in the world, and to the east the **Hong Kong Club Building** (1 Jackson Rd), which houses a prestigious club of that name that was still not accepting Chinese members until well after WWII. The original club building, a magnificent four-storey colonial structure, was torn down in 1981 despite public outcry and was replaced with the modern bow-fronted monstrosity there now.

On the south side of Chater Rd, Statue Square has a collection of fountains and covered outside seating areas; it is best known in Hong Kong as the meeting place of choice for tens of thousands of Filipino

CENTRAL HONG KONG

INFORMATION

- American Chamber of Commerce 美國商會 1 D3
- Canadian Consulate 加拿大領事館 2 B2
- Cheung Kong Centre 長江集團中心 3 C4
- Chinese General Chamber of Commerce 香港中華總商會 4 B2
- Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong 香港中華廠商聯合會 (see 27)
- 大會堂圖書館 (see 24)
- 大都會圖書館 (see 24)
- Community Advice Bureau 5 A2
- Drake International 6 B3
- Dutch Consulate 荷蘭領事館 (see 3)
- General Post Office 郵政總局 7 C2
- Hong Kong Consumer Council 消費者委員會 8 A1
- Hong Kong Labour Department 勞工署 (see 8)
- HSBC 匯豐銀行 9 D3
- IT.Fans 10 A2
- Japanese Consulate 日本領事館 (see 2)
- Macau Government Tourist Office 澳門特別行政區政府旅遊局 (see 57)
- Martinizing 11 A4
- New Furama Dry-Cleaning 新富麗華乾洗有限公司 (see 1)
- PCCW i.Shop 12 A2
- Post Office 郵局 13 A2
- St John's Building 聖約翰大廈 14 C4
- US Consulate 美國領事館 15 B4

SIGHTS (pp52–61)

- Bank of China Tower 中國銀行大廈 16 C4
- Botanical Gardens Greenhouses 香港動植物公園溫室 17 A4
- Centotaph 和平紀念碑 18 C3
- Cheung Kong Garden 19 C4
- Court of Final Appeal 終審法院 20 C4
- Former French Mission Building 前法國傳道會大樓 (see 20)
- Government House 21 B4
- Graham St Market 22 A3
- Hanart TZ Gallery 漢雅軒 23 B3
- Hong Kong City Hall (High Block) 香港大會堂高座 24 C3
- Hong Kong City Hall (Low Block) 香港大會堂低座 25 C3
- Hong Kong Club Building 香港會所大廈 26 C3
- Hong Kong Jockey Club 香港賽馬會 27 A2
- Hong Kong Monetary Authority Information Centre 香港金融管理局諮詢中心 (see 37)
- Hong Kong Planning & Infrastructure Gallery 香港規劃及基建展覽館 28 C3
- Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Building 匯豐銀行大廈 29 C3

- Jardine House 怡和大厦 30 C3
- Jubilee International Tour Centre 銀禧國際旅遊 31 B2
- Legislative Council Building 立法會大樓 32 C3
- Old Bank of China Building 舊中國銀行大廈 33 C3
- One International Finance Centre (One IFC) 國際金融中心一期 34 B2
- SAR Government Headquarters 政府總部 35 B4
- St John's Cathedral 聖約翰座堂 36 C4
- City Hall Public Library 城市廣場圖書館 (see 24)
- Two International Finance Centre (Two IFC) 國際金融中心二期 37 C2
- World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong Office 世界自然基金會香港辦事處 38 C4

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- Bape Store 39 B3
- Blanc de Chine 40 B3
- Booksbury Books 41 B3
- Blookazine (see 56)
- Bossini 42 B2
- Caravan 43 A2
- Christie's (see 58)
- Cigarro 44 B3
- Dymocks (see 34)
- Dymocks 45 C2
- Fook Ming Tong Tea Shop 福茗堂 (see 51)
- Foot 46 A2
- Government Publications Office 政府刊物銷售處 47 C4
- Harvey Nichols (see 54)
- HMV 48 B3

Hong Kong Book Centre

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- IFC Mall 50 C2
- IFC Mall 51 B2
- Indosiam 52 A2
- Jillian, Lingerie On Wyndham 53 A3
- Landmark 置地廣場 54 B3
- Lane Crawford 連卡佛 (see 51)
- Little Misses & Mini Masters (see 56)
- Liuligongfang 琉璃工房 (see 48)
- Lulu Cheung (see 54)
- Ocean Optical 山頂眼鏡有限公司 55 C3
- Prince's Building 太子大厦 56 C3
- Shanghai Tang 上海灘 (see 40)
- Shun Tak Centre 信德中心 57 A1
- Sotheby's (see 55)
- The Spa at the Four Seasons (see 67)
- The Swank 58 B3
- ThreeSixty (see 54)
- Toy Museum 玩具館 (see 58)
- Wise Kids (see 56)
- www.izzue.com 59 B3

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- Amber (see 70)

- City Hall Maxim's Palace 大會堂美心皇宮 (see 25)
- H One (see 51)
- Habi 60 A2
- Lin Heung Tea House 蓮香茶樓 61 A2
- Lung King Heen 龍景軒 (see 67)
- Oliver Delicatessen 62 C3
- Pierre (see 68)
- Shalom Grill 63 B2
- Zuma (see 54)

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- Captain's Bar (see 68)
- MO Bar (see 54)
- Red Bar (see 37)

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- Essential Chinese Language Centre 主流漢語 64 A2
- Pure Fitness 65 B2

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- Eden 66 A2
- Four Seasons Hotel 四季酒店 67 B2
- Mandarin Oriental 文華東方酒店 68 C3
- Ritz-Carlton Hong Kong 69 C3
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- Aero International 71 A2
- Air New Zealand 新西蘭航空 (see 30)
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- Central Bus Terminus 中環巴士總站 72 B2
- China Eastern/China Southern Airlines 中國東方航空/中國南方航空 73 B3
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- Pier 2 (Ferries to Ma Wan) 二號碼頭(往馬灣) 78 B1
- Pier 3 (Ferries to Discovery Bay) 三號碼頭(往愉景灣) 79 B1
- Pier 4 (Ferries to Lamma) 四號碼頭(往南丫島) 80 B1
- Pier 5 (Ferries to Cheung Chau) 五號碼頭(往長洲) 81 C1
- Pier 6 (Ferries to Lantau & Peng Chau) 六號碼頭(往大嶼山及坪洲) 82 C1
- Qantas Airways 澳洲航空 (see 30)
- Virgin Atlantic Airways 維珍航空 (see 58)

statue actually remains, a bronze likeness of Sir Thomas Jackson, a particularly successful Victorian chief manager of the Hong-kong & Shanghai Bank.

MARKETS Map p56

MTR Central (exit B)

On the lower reaches west of the 800m-long **Central Escalator**, which transports pedestrians through Central and Soho and as far as Conduit Rd in the Mid-Levels, you'll find narrow streets containing market stalls and open-air canteens centred on the **Graham St Market**.

It's a compelling place to go if you want to have a close look at the exotic produce that Hong Kong prides itself in selling and consuming. Preserved 'thousand-year' eggs and fresh tofu curd scooped still steaming from wooden tubs are just some of the produce items on display. The squeamish should stay away; fish are cut lengthwise, but above the heart so that it continues to beat and pump blood around the body, keeping it fresher than fresh.

HONG KONG ZOOLOGICAL & BOTANICAL GARDENS Map p56

☎ 2530 0154; www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/ls_park.php; Albany Rd; admission free; 🚶 terrace gardens 6am-10pm, zoo & aviaries 6am-7pm, greenhouses 9am-4.30pm; 🚗 3B, 12 or 40M from Central

Established in 1871 as the Botanic Garden, these 5.6-hectare gardens are a pleasant collection of fountains, sculptures, greenhouses, a playground, a zoo and some fabulous aviaries. Along with exotic trees, plants and shrubs, some 160 species of bird are in residence here – including non-native sulphur-crested cockatoos, which are attractive but damage the local vegetation. The zoo is surprisingly comprehensive, with

more than 70 mammals and 40 reptiles, and is also one of the world's leading centres for the captive breeding of endangered species (there are 16 different species of endangered animal being bred here).

The gardens are divided by Albany Rd, with the plants and aviaries in the area to the east, close to Garden Rd, and most of the animals to the west. The animal displays are mostly primates (lemurs, gibbons, macaques, orangutans etc); other residents include a jaguar and radiated tortoises.

The Hong Kong Zoological & Botanical Gardens are at the top (ie southern) end of Garden Rd. It's an easy walk from Central, but you can also take bus 3B or 12 from the stop in front of Jardine House on Connaught Rd Central or bus 40M from the Central bus terminus below Exchange Square. The bus takes you along Upper Albert Rd and Caine Rd on the northern boundary of the gardens. Get off in front of **Caritas House** (Map p77; 2 Caine Rd) and follow the path across the street and up the hill to the gardens.

BANK OF CHINA BUILDINGS Map p56

MTR Central

To the east of the HSBC building is the **old Bank of China (BOC) building** (2A Des Voeux Rd Central), built in 1950, which now houses the bank's Central branch and, on the top three (13th to 15th) floors, the exclusive China Club, which evokes the atmosphere of old Shanghai. The BOC is now headquartered in the awesome **Bank of China Tower** (1 Garden Rd) to the southeast, designed by Chinese-born American architect IM Pei and completed in 1990.

The 70-storey Bank of China Tower is Hong Kong's third-tallest structure after Two International Finance Centre in Central

A CHINESE CURE ALL

So you're feeling a bit peaky. Below par. Liverish even. Why not see if a Chinese herbalist can pep you up? Might we suggest the Good Spring Co on Cochrane St, directly beneath the Escalator?

First for the consultation: you will be asked a few questions, your pulse taken, and your tongue examined to reveal how balanced your humours are and whether you have too much heat or cold in your constitution.

According to the prognosis the tonic will very likely be a medicinal tea. This may be a simple herbal infusion, or something containing more exotic ingredients. Some are helpfully described in the window, such as powdered deer's horn, monkey's visceral organs (useful if you need to 'remove excessive sputum') and deer's tail (a marvel if you need to 'strengthen sinews' or 'treat the seminal emission').

Other ingredients might include desiccated deer's penis, dinosaur teeth or horse bezoars (gallstone-like balls formed in horses' stomachs, and the herbalist's poison antidote of choice). The resulting brew is invariably dark brown, sinister in smell and bitter to taste.

What's that you say? You're not feeling quite so bad after all?

and Central Plaza in Wan Chai. The asymmetry of the building is puzzling at first glance but is really a simple geometric exercise. Rising from the ground like a cube, it is successively reduced, quarter by quarter, until the south-facing side is left to rise upward on its own.

Many local Hong Kong Chinese see the building as a huge violation of the principles of feng shui. For example, the bank's four triangular prisms are negative symbols in the geomancer's rule book; being the opposite to circles, these triangles contradict what circles suggest – money, prosperity, perfection. The **public viewing gallery** (🕒 8am-6pm Mon-Fri) on the 43rd floor offers panoramic views of Hong Kong.

CENTRAL DISTRICT POLICE STATION

Map p68

10 Hollywood Rd; 🚗 26

Part of this compound of four-storey buildings dates back to 1864, though other blocks were added in 1910 and 1925. The police moved out in late 2004 and, at the time of writing, the government was considering putting the buildings and the valuable chunk of land on which they sit up for commercial tender, despite a public outcry against the move.

EXCHANGE SQUARE Map p56

8 Connaught Pl; MTR Central (exit A)

West of Jardine House, this complex of three elevated office towers is home to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and a number of businesses and offices. Access is via a network of overhead pedestrian walkways stretching west to Sheung Wan and linked to many of the buildings on the other side of Connaught Rd. The ground level of the

52-storey Towers I and II is given over to the Central bus and minibus terminus; Tower III is 32 levels high. The stock exchange is located at the main entrance to Towers I and II.

FORMER FRENCH MISSION BUILDING Map p56

1 Battery Path; MTR Central (exit K)

The **Court of Final Appeal**, the highest judicial body in Hong Kong, is now housed in the neoclassical former French Mission building, a charming structure built by an American trading firm in 1868. It served as the Russian consulate in Hong Kong until 1915 when the French Overseas Mission bought it and added a chapel and a dome. The building was the headquarters of the provisional colonial government after WWII. Tree-lined Battery Path links Ice House St with Garden Rd. Just before the mission building is pretty **Cheung Kong Garden**, which developers were required to lay out when they built the 70-storey Cheung Kong Centre to the south.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE Map p56

☎ 2530 2003; Upper Albert Rd; MTR Central (exit G)

Parts of this erstwhile official residence of the governor of Hong Kong, opposite the northern end of the Zoological & Botanical Gardens, date back to 1855 when Governor Sir John Bowring was in residence. Other features, including the dominant central tower linking the two original buildings, were added in 1942 by the Japanese, who used it as military headquarters during the occupation of Hong Kong in WWII. Hong Kong's first chief executive, Tung Chee Hwa, refused to occupy Government House after taking up his position in 1997, claiming the

TRANSPORT – CENTRAL

MTR Central station on the Island and Tsuen Wan lines is at the heart of the neighbourhood.

Airport Express Hong Kong station below IFC Mall connects by underground walkway with Central MTR on one side and on the other to the central piers ferry terminal.

Bus Buses from all over the island start and end their journeys at Central bus terminus below Exchange Square.

Tram The line runs east and west along Des Voeux Rd Central.

Star Ferry Ferries from Tsim Sha Tsui and Hung Hom in Kowloon arrive at the new Central ferries pier.

Central Escalator Lower terminus at Central Market to the Mid-Levels.

Peak Tram Lower terminus at 33 Garden Rd to the Peak.

Outlying Islands Ferry Ferries to Discovery Bay (pier 3), Lamma (pier 4), Cheung Chau (pier 5), Lantau and Peng Chau (pier 6).

feng shui wasn't satisfactory, and his successor, Donald Tsang, has followed suit.

Government House is open to the public three or four times a year, notably one Sunday in March, when the azaleas in the mansion gardens are in full bloom.

HONG KONG CITY HALL Map p56

☎ 2921 2840; 1 Edinburgh Pl; MTR Central (exit J3) Southwest of Star Ferry pier, the recently facelifted City Hall was built in 1962 and is still a major cultural venue in Hong Kong, with concert and recital halls, a theatre and exhibition galleries. Within the so-called Lower Block but entered to the east of City Hall's main entrance, the [Hong Kong Planning & Infrastructure Exhibition Gallery](#) (☎ 3102 1242; www.info.gov.hk/infrastructuregallery; 3 Edinburgh Pl; admission free; ☎ 10am-6pm Wed-Mon) may not sound like a crowd-pleaser but it will awaken the Meccano builder in more than a few visitors. The exhibition follows an 18.5-m 'walk' past recent, ongoing and future civil engineering, urban renewal and environment improvement projects, including the massive land reclamation project underway outside along the harbour side, which is leaving City Hall marooned ever further inland.

JARDINE HOUSE Map p56

1 Connaught Pl; MTR Hong Kong (exit B2) A short distance southeast of Star Ferry pier, this 52-storey silver monolith punctured with 1750 porthole-like windows was

Hong Kong's first true 'skyscraper' when it opened as the Connaught Centre in 1973. Hong Kong Chinese like giving nicknames to things (and people, be they friend or foe) and the centre has been dubbed the 'House of 1000 Arseholes'.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING

Map p56
8 Jackson Rd; MTR Central (exit G) The colonnaded and domed neoclassical building on the east side of Statue Square was once the old Supreme Court. Built in 1912 of granite quarried on Stonecutters Island, it has served as the seat of the Legislative Council (Legco) since 1985. Standing atop the pediment is a blindfolded statue of Themis, the Greek goddess of justice and natural law. During WWII it was a headquarters of the Gendarmerie, the Japanese version of the Gestapo, and many people were executed here. Across Jackson Rd to the east is [Chater Garden](#), which was a cricket pitch until 1975.

LI YUEN STREET EAST & WEST

Map p56, Map p68
☎ 10am-7pm; MTR Central (exit C) These two narrow and crowded alleyways linking Des Voeux Rd Central with Queen's Rd Central are called 'the lanes' by Hong Kong residents, and were traditionally the place to go for fabric and piece goods. Most vendors have now moved to Western

Market (p70) in Sheung Wan, and today you'll find the usual mishmash of cheap clothing, handbags, backpacks and costume jewellery.

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL Map p56

☎ 2523 4157; www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk; 4-8 Garden Rd; admission free; ☎ 7am-6pm; MTR Central (exit J2)

Consecrated in 1849, this Anglican cathedral is one of the very few colonial structures still standing in Central. Criticised for blighting the colony's landscape when it was first erected, St John's is now lost in the forest of skyscrapers that make up Central. The tower was added in 1850 and the chancel extended in 1873.

Services have been held here continuously since the cathedral opened, except in 1944, when the Japanese Imperial Army used it as a social club. The cathedral suffered heavy damage during WWII and after the war the front doors were remade using timber salvaged from HMS *Tamar*, a British warship that used to guard the entrance to Victoria Harbour, and the beautiful stained-glass East Window was replaced. You walk on sacred ground in more ways than one at St John's: it is the only piece of freehold land in Hong Kong. There's usually a free organ concert at 1.15pm on Wednesdays. Enter from Battery Path.

LOWER ALBERT ROAD & ICE HOUSE STREET Map p56, Map p68

MTR Central (exit G) Lower Albert Rd, where the massive [SAR Government Headquarters](#) (Map p56; 18 Lower Albert Rd) is located, has many interesting buildings. The attractive off-white stucco and red-brick structure at the top of the road is the [Dairy Farm Building](#) (Map p68), built for the Dairy Farm Ice & Cold Storage Company in 1898 and renovated in 1913.

Today it houses the [Fringe Club](#) (p218), the excellent [M at the Fringe](#) restaurant (p177) and the illustrious [Foreign Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong](#) (☎ 2521 1511; www.fcchk.org). Towering above the Dairy Farm Building on the opposite side of the road is the [Bishop's House](#) (Map p68), built in 1851 and the official residence of the Anglican Bishop of Victoria.

From the Dairy Farm Building, Ice House St doglegs into Queen's Rd Central. Just before it turns north, a wide flight of stone steps leads down to [Duddell St](#) (Map p56). The

four [wrought-iron China Gas lamps](#) at the top and bottom of the steps were placed here in the 1870s and are listed monuments.

ONE & TWO INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CENTRE Map p56

1 Harbour View St; MTR Hong Kong (exit F) These two tapering, pearl-coloured colossi sit atop the International Finance Centre (IFC) Mall and Hong Kong station, terminus of the Airport Express and the Tung Chung lines. Both were partly designed by Cesar Pelli, the man responsible for Canary Wharf in London. One IFC, which opened in 1999, is a 'mere' 38 levels tall. At 88 storeys, Two IFC, topped out in mid-2003, is Hong Kong's tallest (though not prettiest) building. Given the local penchant for bestowing nicknames on everything, Two IFC has been christened 'Sir YK Pao's Erection', a reference to the owner of the development company that built the tower.

You can't get to the top of Two IFC but you can get pretty high up by visiting the [Hong Kong Monetary Authority Information Centre](#) (☎ 2878 1111; www.hkma.gov.hk; 55th fl, Two IFC, 8 Finance St; admission free; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-1pm Sat), which contains a research library and exhibition areas related to the Hong Kong currency, fiscal policy and banking history. There are guided tours at 2.30 and 3pm Monday to Friday, and 10.30am Saturday.

EXPLORING HONG KONG'S HEART

Walking Tour

1 Legislative Council Building Begin the walk at Statue Square and take in the handsome outline of the neo-classical [Legislative Council Building](#) (opposite), one of the few colonial-era survivors in the area and the seat of Hong Kong's modern legislature.

2 Bank of China Tower Begin walking southwest through Chater Garden park and cross over Garden Rd to the angular, modern lines of the [Bank of China Tower](#) (p58), with amazing views from the 43rd floor.

3 Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware Duck into Hong Kong Park for this free [museum](#) (p62) displaying valuable pots, cups and

MAID IN HONG KONG

A large number of households in Hong Kong have an *amah*, a maid who cooks, cleans, minds the children and/or feeds the dog, who either lives in or comes in once or twice a week. In the old days *amahs* were usually Chinese spinners who wore starched white tunics and black trousers, put their hair in a long plait and had a mouthful of gold fillings. Their employers became their families. Today, however, that kind of *amah* is virtually extinct, and the work is now done by foreigners – young women (and increasingly men) from the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand and Sri Lanka on two-year renewable 'foreign domestic helper' (FDH) work visas.

Filipinos are by far the largest group, accounting for some 65% of the territory's 240,000 foreign domestic workers. While the Indonesians descend on Victoria Park and the Nepalese prefer Tsim Sha Tsui on their one day off (usually Sunday), Filipino *amahs* take over the pavements and public squares of Central. They come in their thousands to share food, gossip, play cards, read the Bible, and do one another's hair and nails. You can't miss them around Statue Square, Exchange Square and the plaza below the HSBC building.

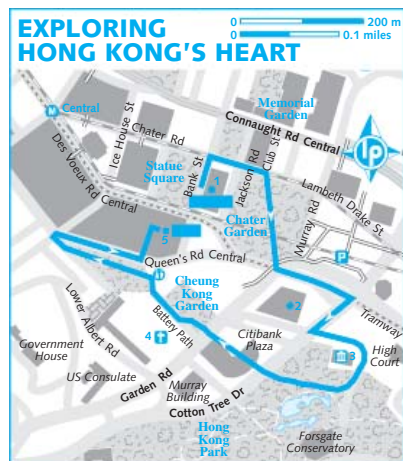
Though it doesn't seem very attractive, for young Filipinos a contract to work in Hong Kong is a dream come true, an answer to the poverty of the Philippines, even if the minimum monthly salary is only \$3320 (still more than twice what they would earn in Singapore or Malaysia). The work is a chance to attain, eventually, a better standard of life back home. But such opportunity doesn't come without a heavy price. According to Hong Kong-based [Asian Migrant Centre](#) (www.asian-migrants.org), as many as 25% of foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong suffer physical and/or sexual abuse from their employers. If you'd like to learn more, read *Maid to Order in Hong Kong* by Nicole Constable, which is based on interviews the author conducted with *amahs* throughout Hong Kong.

other elegant tea ware. Sample some of China's finest teas down in the serene café.

4 St John's Cathedral From here take elevated walkways west over Cotton Tree Dr, through Citybank Plaza, over Garden Rd and through Cheung Kong Garden to the cathedral (p61), dating from 1849. It is a modest building to earn the title of cathedral, especially so set among the towering corporate cathedrals now surrounding it, but it is an important historic Hong Kong monument all the same.

5 Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Building

Follow Battery Path past the Former French Mission Building to Ice House St. Cross over and walk right (east) along Queen's Rd Central to the **Hongkong & Shanghai Bank building** (p53) and up the escalator, if it's open, to the large airy atrium. Walk through the ground-floor plaza to pat Stephen and Stitt, the two lions guarding the exit to Des Voeux Rd Central. The closest Central MTR station entrance is then a short distance to the north along the pedestrian walkway between Statue Square and Prince's Building.



WALK FACTS

Start Statue Square, Central
End Central MTR station (entrance/exit K)
Distance 1.5km
Time 45 minutes
Fuel stop Museum of Tea Ware Café

ADMIRALTY & WAN CHAI

Drinking & Nightlife p209; Eating p183; Shopping p163; Sleeping p252

To the east of Central is Admiralty (Map p63), a district you might not even notice were it not for the dominating **Pacific Place** shopping centre and several modern buildings of note, including the blindingly gold **Far East Finance Centre** (Map p63; 16 Harcourt Rd), known locally as the 'Amah's Tooth' in reference to the traditional Chinese maids' preference for gold fillings and caps.

Admiralty is a small district, bordered by Cotton Tree Dr in the west and Arsenal St in the north. Hong Kong Park effectively cuts it off from the Mid-Levels and the Peak to the south, while Harcourt Rd is its barrier to the harbour in the north.

East of Admiralty is Hong Kong Island's most famous district: Wan Chai (Map p65), or 'Little Bay'. Its three main roads are Jaffe, Lockhart and Hennessy Rds. The harbour is the limit to the north, and to the south it's Queen's Rd East. If you choose to believe some of the tourist brochures, Wan Chai is still inseparably linked with the name of Suzie Wong – not bad considering that the book dates back to 1957 and the movie to 1960. Although Wan Chai had a reputation during the Vietnam War as an anything-goes red-light district, today it is mainly a centre for shopping, business and more upscale entertainment. If you want to see how far Wan Chai has come since then, check out the majestic **Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre** (p64). It's a different world south and southeast of this 'new' Wan Chai. Sandwiched between Johnston Rd and Queen's Rd East are rows of narrow streets harbouring all sorts of traditional shops, markets and workshops.

HONG KONG PARK Map p63

☎ 2521 5041; www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/ls_park.php; 19 Cotton Tree Dr, Admiralty; admission free; ♿ park 6am–11pm, conservatory & aviary 9am–5pm; MTR Admiralty (exit C1), 🚊 12A runs btwn Chater Rd in Central & Kennedy Rd, alight at the first stop on Cotton Tree Dr

Deliberately designed to look anything but natural, Hong Kong Park is one of the most unusual parks in the world, emphasising artificial creations such as its fountain plaza, conservatory, artificial waterfall, indoor games hall, playground, t'ai chi garden, viewing tower, museum and arts centre. For all its artifice, the 8-hectare park is beautiful in its own weird way and,

with a wall of skyscrapers on one side and mountains on the other, makes for some dramatic photographs.

By far the best feature of the park is the delightful **Edward Youde Aviary**, named after a former Hong Kong governor (1982–86) and China scholar who died suddenly while in office. Home to more than 600 birds representing some 90 different species, the aviary is huge and manages to actually feel like a corner of rainforest in places. Visitors walk along a wooden bridge suspended some 10m above the ground and at eye level with the tree branches, where most of the birds are to be found. The **Forsgate Conservatory** on the slope overlooking the park is the largest in Southeast Asia.

At the park's northernmost tip is the **Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware** (☎ 2869 0690; www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/cs_mus_lcsd.php; 10 Cotton Tree Dr; admission free; ♿ 10am–5pm Wed–Mon). Built in 1846 as the home of the commander of the British forces, it is the oldest colonial building in Hong Kong still standing in its original spot. The museum, a branch of the Hong Kong Museum of Art, houses a collection of antique Chinese tea ware: bowls, teapoons, brewing trays, sniffing

cups (used particularly for enjoying the fragrance of the finest oolong from Taiwan) and, of course, teapots made of porcelain or purple clay from Yixing. The ground-floor café makes a great spot to recharge over a pot of fine tea.

The **KS Lo Gallery** (☎ 2869 0690; 10 Cotton Tree Dr; admission free; ♿ 10am–5pm Wed–Mon), in a small building just southeast of the museum, contains rare Chinese ceramics and stone seals collected by the gallery's eponymous benefactor.

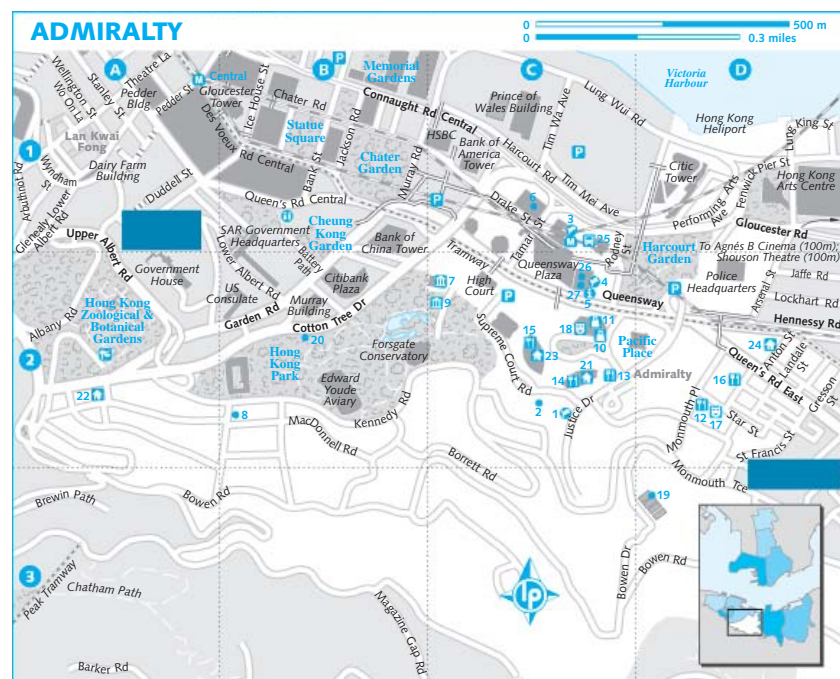
The **Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre** (☎ 2521 3008; 7A Kennedy Rd; admission free; ♿ 10am–9pm

TRANSPORT – ADMIRALTY

MTR Admiralty station is on the Central and Tsuen Wan lines.

Bus Buses to and from destinations throughout Hong Kong Island operate from Admiralty bus terminus below Queensway Plaza and Admiralty MTR station.

Tram East along Queensway, Johnston Rd and Hennessy Rd (Map p65) to Causeway Bay; west to Central and Sheung Wan.



ADMIRALTY

INFORMATION

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| British Consulate 英國領事館 | 1 | C2 |
| British Council 英國文化協會 | 2 | C2 |
| French Consulate 法國領事館 | 3 | C1 |
| German Consulate 德國領事館 | 4 | C2 |
| Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce 香港總商會 | 5 | C2 |

SIGHTS

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| Far East Finance Centre 遠東金融中心 | 6 | C1 |
| Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware 茶具文物館 | 7 | C2 |
| Hong Kong Design Centre | 8 | B2 |
| KS Lo Gallery 羅桂祥茶藝館 | 9 | C2 |

SHOPPING

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Bookazine | (see 6) |
| Chinese Arts & Crafts 中藝 | (see 11) |
| City Chain 時間廊 | (see 11) |
| Hong Kong Records | (see 11) |
| Joyce | (see 10) |
| Kelly & Walsh | (see 10) |

| | | |
|------------------------|----------|----|
| Kent & Curwen | 10 | C2 |
| Lane Crawford 連卡佛 | (see 10) | |
| Liuligongfang 琉璃工房 | (see 10) | |
| Pacific Custom Tailors | (see 11) | |
| Pacific Place 太古廣場 | 11 | C2 |
| Vivienne Tam | (see 11) | |
| Wise Kids | (see 11) | |

EATING

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|----|
| Café Too | (see 25) | |
| Cine Città | 12 | D2 |
| Fish Bar 魚吧 | 13 | C2 |
| Great Food Hall | (see 11) | |
| Nicholini's | 14 | C2 |
| Petrus 珀翠餐廳 | 15 | C2 |
| Thai Basil | (see 11) | |
| Xi Yan Sweets 饅宴甜藝 | 16 | D2 |
| Ye Shanghai | (see 11) | |

ENTERTAINMENT

| | | |
|------------------|----|----|
| 1/5 | 17 | D2 |
| UA Pacific Place | 18 | C2 |

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----|----|
| Bowen Road Sports Ground 寶雲道網球場 | 19 | D3 |
| Hong Kong Squash Centre 香港壁球中心 | 20 | B2 |

SLEEPING

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Conrad Hong Kong 香港港麗酒店 | 21 | C2 |
| Garden View International House 女青年會園景軒 | 22 | A2 |
| Island Shangri-La Hotel 港島香格里拉大酒店 | 23 | C2 |
| Wesley Hong Kong 衛蘭軒 | 24 | D2 |

TRANSPORT

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Bus Station (Admiralty) 巴士站(金鐘) | 25 | C1 |
| Licensing Division of the Transport Department 運輸署牌照部 | 26 | C2 |
| Singapore Airlines 新加坡航空 | 27 | C2 |

Wed-Mon), housed in the Cassels Block of the former Victoria Barracks, within Hong Kong Park at its eastern edge, since 1992, supports local sculptors, printmakers and potters, and stages temporary exhibitions.

Hong Kong Park is an easy walk from either Central or the Admiralty MTR station.

HONG KONG CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE

☎ 2582 8888; www.hkcec.com; 1 Expo Dr, Wan Chai; ☎ 18

Due north of the Wan Chai MTR station, the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, which was built in 1988 and extended onto a man-made island in the harbour for the handover in 1997, has been variously compared with a bird's wing, a banana leaf and a lotus petal. For more information, see p38.

CENTRAL PLAZA

18 Harbour Rd, Wan Chai; ☎ 18

At just under 374m, Central Plaza, which was completed in 1992, is just 3m shorter than the newer Two IFC. The glass skin of the tower has three different colours – gold, silver and terracotta – and the overall impression is rather garish.

Central Plaza functions as one of the world's biggest clocks. There's method to the madness of those four lines of light

shining through the glass pyramid at the top of the building between 6pm and midnight. The bottom level indicates the hour: red is 6pm; white 7pm; purple 8pm; yellow 9pm; pink 10pm; green 11pm. When all four lights are the same colour, it's right on the hour. When the top light is different from the bottom ones, it's 15 minutes past the hour. If the top two and bottom two are different, it's half-past the hour. If the top three match, it's 45 minutes past the hour. So what time is it now?

GOLDEN BAUHINIA

Golden Bauhinia Sq, 1 Expo Dr, Wan Chai; bus 18, MTR Wan Chai (exit A5)

A 6m-tall statue (including pedestal) of Hong Kong's symbol, called the *Forever Blooming Bauhinia*, stands on the waterfront promenade just in front of the Hong

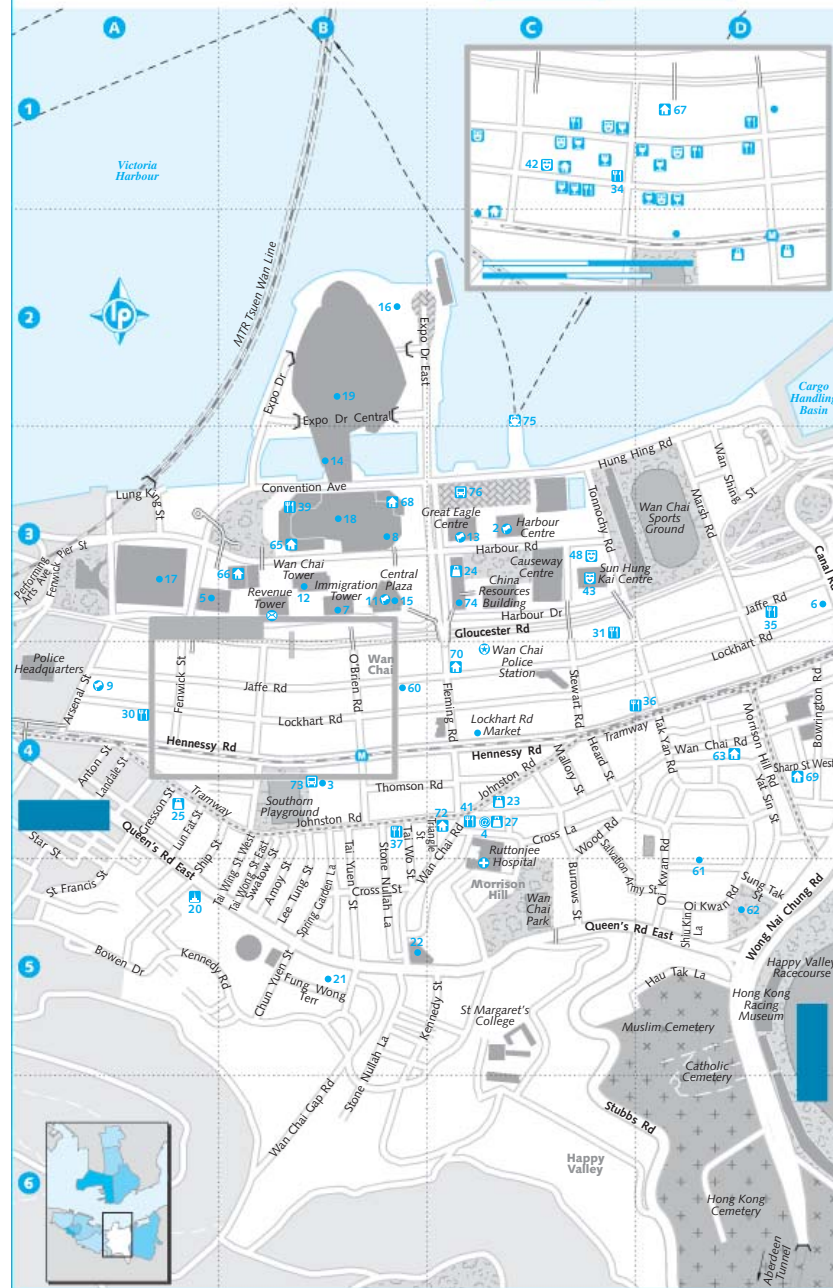
TRANSPORT – WAN CHAI

MTR Wan Chai station is on the Island line and is the best way to reach this district.

Tram East along Queensway, Johnston Rd and Hennessy Rd to Causeway Bay; west to Central and Sheung Wan.

Star Ferry Wan Chai ferry pier to Hung Hom and Tsim Sha Tsui in Kowloon.

WAN CHAI



WAN CHAI

INFORMATION

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Alliance Française 法國文化協會 .. | 1 | D2 |
| Australian Consulate 澳洲領事館 .. | 2 | C3 |
| China Travel Service .. | 3 | B4 |
| Cyber Clan .. | 4 | C4 |
| Goethe-Institut 歌德學院 .. | 5 | A3 |
| Hong Kong Federation of Women 香港各界婦女聯合協進會 .. | 6 | D3 |
| Hong Kong Immigration Department 香港入境處 .. | 7 | B3 |
| Hong Kong Trade Development Council (Head Office) 香港貿易發展局 (總辦事處) .. | 8 | B3 |
| Irish Consulate 愛爾蘭領事館 .. | 9 | A4 |
| Joint Council for People with Disabilities 香港復康聯會 .. | 10 | C2 |
| New Zealand Consulate 紐西蘭領事館 .. | 11 | B3 |
| Small Claims Tribunal 小額錢債審裁處 .. | 12 | B3 |
| South African Consulate 南非領事館 .. | 13 | C3 |
| TDC Business InfoCentre 貿易發展局商貿資訊中心 .. | 14 | B3 |

SIGHTS (pp62-7)

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Central Plaza .. | 15 | B3 |
| Golden Bauhinia 金紫荊廣場 .. | 16 | B2 |
| Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts 香港演藝學院 .. | 17 | A3 |
| Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre 香港會議及展覽中心 .. | 18 | B3 |
| Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre (New Wing) 香港會議及展覽中心 (新翼) .. | 19 | B2 |
| Hung Shing Temple 洪聖古廟 .. | 20 | A5 |
| Old Wan Chai Post Office .. | 21 | B5 |
| Wan Chai Market 灣仔街市 .. | 22 | B5 |

SHOPPING (pp163-5)

| | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|
| Bunn's Divers 賓氏潛水學院 .. | 23 | C4 |
| Chinese Arts & Crafts .. | 24 | C3 |

| | | |
|--|----------|----|
| Cosmos Books 天地圖書 .. | 25 | A4 |
| Design Gallery 設計廊 .. | (see 18) | |
| Joint Publishing 三聯書店 .. | 26 | D2 |
| Kung Fu Supplies 功夫用品公司 (see 23) | | |
| Plateau .. | (see 65) | |
| Sunmark Camping Equipment 晨峰露營用品 .. | 27 | C4 |
| Wan Chai Computer Centre 灣仔電腦城 .. | 28 | D2 |

EATING (pp183-6)

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|----|
| 369 Shanghai Restaurant .. | 29 | D1 |
| American Restaurant .. | 30 | A4 |
| Carriana Chiu Chow Restaurant .. | 31 | C3 |
| Che's Cantonese Restaurant .. | 32 | C1 |
| Cinta-J .. | 33 | C1 |
| Flying Pan .. | 34 | C1 |
| Hyang Chon Korean Restaurant .. | 35 | D3 |
| Liu Yuan Restaurant .. | 36 | D4 |
| Lung Moon Restaurant .. | 37 | B4 |
| Sabah .. | 38 | D1 |
| The Grill .. | 39 | B3 |
| Tim's Kitchen .. | 40 | D1 |
| Viceroy Restaurant & Bar .. | (see 48) | |
| Xi Yan 釀宴 .. | 41 | C4 |

ENTERTAINMENT (pp215-18)

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------|----|
| Carnegie's .. | 42 | C1 |
| Cine-Art House .. | 43 | C3 |
| Dusk till Dawn .. | 44 | C1 |
| Joe Banana's .. | 45 | C1 |
| Neptune Disco II .. | 46 | D1 |
| New Makati Pub & Disco .. | 47 | D1 |
| Punchline Comedy Club .. | 48 | C3 |
| Tribeca .. | (see 68) | |
| Wanch .. | 49 | C1 |

DRINKING (pp209-10)

| | | |
|------------------|----------|----|
| Bar 109 .. | 50 | D1 |
| Bridge .. | 51 | D1 |
| Champagne Bar .. | (see 65) | |
| Chinatown .. | 52 | C1 |
| Delaney's .. | 53 | D1 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----|
| Devil's Advocate .. | 54 | C1 |
| Kangaroo Downunder .. | (see 32) | |
| Maya .. | 55 | C1 |
| Mes Amis .. | 56 | C1 |
| Old China Hand .. | 57 | D1 |
| Skitz .. | 58 | C1 |
| White Stag .. | (see 32) | |

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES (pp222-31)

| | | |
|--|---------|----|
| California Fitness .. | 59 | D1 |
| Hong Kong Jockey Club .. | 60 | B4 |
| Morrison Hill Public Swimming Pool 摩利臣山公共游泳池 .. | 61 | D5 |
| Queen Elizabeth Stadium 伊利沙伯體育館 .. | 62 | D5 |
| Water Supplies Department .. | (see 7) | |

SLEEPING (pp252-5)

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Charterhouse Hotel .. | 63 | D4 |
| Empire Hotel Hong Kong 香港皇悅酒店 .. | 64 | C2 |
| Grand Hyatt Hotel 君悅酒店 .. | 65 | B3 |
| Harbour View International House 灣景國際賓館 .. | 66 | B3 |
| Luk Kwok Hotel .. | 67 | D1 |
| Renaissance Harbour View Hotel 萬麗海景酒店 .. | 68 | B3 |
| South Pacific Hotel Hong Kong 南洋酒店 .. | 69 | D4 |
| The Fleming .. | 70 | C4 |
| Wharney Guangdong Hotel Hong Kong 香港華美粵海酒店 .. | 71 | C1 |
| Ying King Apartment 英京迎賓館 .. | 72 | C4 |
| CTS Wan Chai Branch .. | 73 | B4 |
| Visa Office of the People's Republic of China .. | 74 | C3 |
| Wan Chai Ferry Pier 灣仔碼頭 .. | 75 | C2 |
| Wan Chai Ferry Pier Bus Terminus 灣仔碼頭巴士總站 .. | 76 | C3 |

Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre to mark the return of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty in 1997 and the establishment of the Hong Kong SAR. The flag-raising ceremony, held daily at 7.50am and conducted by the Hong Kong Police, has become a 'must see' for visiting tourist groups from the mainland. There's a pipe band on the 1st, 11th and 21st of each month at 7.45am.

HONG KONG ARTS CENTRE Map p63

☎ 2582 0200; www.hkac.org.hk; 2 Harbour Rd, Wan Chai; MTR Admiralty (exit E2)
Due east of the Academy for the Performing Arts is the Hong Kong Arts Centre. Along with theatres, including the important *Agnès B Cinema* (p217), you'll also find here the *Pao Sui Loong & Pao Yue Kong Galleries* (☎ 2824 5330; admission free; ☎ 10am-6pm during

exhibitions). Extending over floors Nanshan four and five, there's room to host retrospectives and group shows in all visual media.

HONG KONG DESIGN CENTRE Map p63

☎ 2522 8688; www.hkdesigncentre.org; 28 Kennedy Rd, the Mid-Levels; admission free; ☎ 9am-6pm (variable); ☎ 12A
The design centre, just opposite the Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre, is housed in one of the most graceful colonial buildings in the territory. Built in 1896, it served as a bank, the offices of the Japanese Residents Association of Hong Kong before WWII and a school until it was renovated and given to the Hong Kong Federation of Designers. Even if it does not have any exhibitions open to the public, the exterior and public areas are worth a look.

ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS Map p65

☎ 2584 8500; www.hkapa.edu; 1 Gloucester Rd, Wan Chai; MTR Admiralty (exit E2)
With its striking triangular atrium and an exterior Meccano-like frame that is a work of art in itself, the academy building (1985) is a Wan Chai landmark and an important venue for music, dance and scholarship.

HUNG SHING TEMPLE Map p65

☎ 2527 0804; 129-131 Queen's Rd East, Wan Chai; ☎ 8am-6pm; ☎ 6 or 6A

Nestled in a leafy nook on the southern side of Queen's Rd East, this narrow and dark temple (which is also called Tai Wong Temple) is built atop huge boulders in honour of a Tang-dynasty official who was well known for his virtue (important) and ability to make predictions of great value to traders (ultra-important).

OLD WAN CHAI POST OFFICE Map p65

☎ 2893 2856; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Tue & Thu-Sat, 10am-1pm Wed, 1-5pm Sun).

A short distance to the east of Wan Chai Market is this important colonial-style building erected in 1913 and now serving as a resource centre operated by the **Environmental Protection Department** (☎ 2893 2856; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Tue & Thu-Sat, 10am-1pm Wed, 1-5pm Sun).

LAN KWAI FONG & SOHO

Drinking & Nightlife p208; Eating p180
South of Queen's Rd Central and up hilly D'Aguiar or Wyndham Sts is Lan Kwai Fong (Map p68), a narrow, L-shaped pedestrian way that is Hong Kong Island's chief entertainment district. It's popular with expats and Hong Kong Chinese alike. In recent years it has become one of the first ports of call for mainland tour groups: most often they're here

TRANSPORT – LAN KWAI FONG & SOHO

MTR Central station (Map p56) on the Island and Tsuen Wan lines is at the heart of the neighbourhood.

Bus Buses 5 and 5A from Central call at 10 Des Voeux Rd (Map p70); bus 26 runs along Hollywood Rd.

to gawp – not to party. The bars are generally nothing to get excited about – standing out for little more than their similarity – but it's a fun place to do a little pub-crawling, especially at happy hour. Lan Kwai Fong has more pubs and bars than restaurants, while Wyndham St, the latest corner of the area to spring into life, has a slightly more upmarket selection of bars and restaurants. These lead west to Soho (from 'South Of Hollywood Rd'), which is above Hollywood Rd, another good hunting ground for good food and nightlife.

SHEUNG WAN

Drinking & Nightlife p208; Eating p182; Shopping p162; Sleeping p250

West of Central, in pockets Sheung Wan (Map p70) still has something of a feel of old Shanghai about it, although that is fast disappearing under the jackhammer, and many of the old 'ladder streets' (steep inclined streets with steps) once lined with stalls and street vendors have been cleared away to make room for more buildings or the MTR. Nevertheless, traditional shops and businesses cling on and the area is worth exploring.

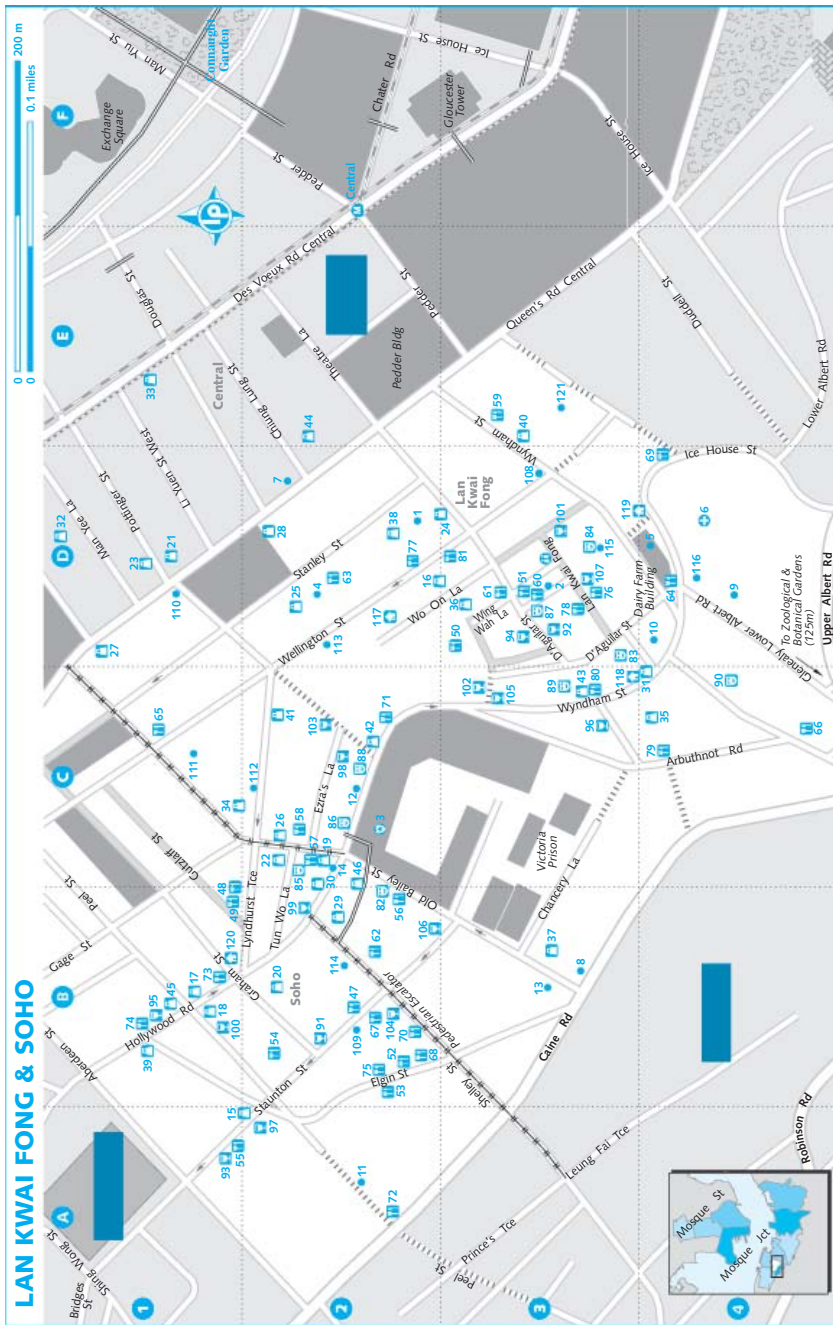
Hollywood Road (Map p68), which got its name from all the holly bushes that once thrived here, is an interesting street to explore. The eastern end is lined with upmarket antique and carpet shops and trendy eateries. However, once you head west of Aberdeen St the scene changes: you'll soon be passing traditional wreath and coffin makers, as well as several funeral shops.

The limits of Sheung Wan are difficult to define, but basically the district stretches from the Sheung Wan MTR station in the east to King George V Memorial Park and Eastern St in the west. The harbour – or, rather, Connaught Rd West – is the northern border, while Hollywood Rd is the southern limit.

MAN MO TEMPLE Map p70

☎ 2540 0350; 124-126 Hollywood Rd; admission free; ☎ 8am-6pm; ☎ 26

This busy 18th-century temple is one of the oldest and most famous in Hong Kong. Man Mo (literally 'civil' and 'martial') is dedicated to two deities. The civil deity is a Chinese statesman of the 3rd century BC called Man Cheung, who is worshipped as the god of literature and is represented holding a writing brush. The military deity is Kwan Yu (or Kwan Tai), a Han-dynasty soldier born in the 2nd century AD and



LAN KWAI FONG & SOHO

LAN KWAI FONG & SOHO

INFORMATION

- 1010 CSL Outlet.....1 D2
- California Tower.....2 D3
- Central District Police Station.....3 C2
- Color Six.....4 D2
- Fringe Club 藝穗會.....5 D4
- Hong Kong Central Hospital
香港中醫院.....6 D4
- Melbourne Plaza.....7 D2
- Wei Wei Dry Cleaner & Laundry.....8 B3

SIGHTS

- Bishop's House 主教公署.....9 D4
- Grotto Fine Art 嘉圖.....10 D4
- John Batten Gallery.....11 A2
- Plum Blossoms.....12 C2
- Schoeni Art Gallery.....13 B3
- Schoeni Art Gallery Branch.....14 C2

SHOPPING

- Amours Antiques.....15 A1
- Anglo-Chinese Florist 中西花店...16 D2
- Arch Angel Antiques.....17 B1
- Arch Angel Fine Art.....18 B1
- Carpet Centre.....19 C2
- Chine Gallery 華苑.....20 B2
- Chinese Arts & Crafts.....21 D1
- Cigar Express Central.....22 C2
- City Chain 時間廊.....23 D1
- Elems Day Spa.....24 D3

Everbest Photo Supplies

- 超然沖曬專門店.....25 D2
- Flow Organic Bookshop.....26 C2
- Foot.....27 D1
- H&M.....28 D2
- Hobbs & Bishops Fine Art.....29 B2
- Honeychurch Antiques.....30 C2
- Jilian, Lingerie On Wyndham.....31 C4
- Joint Publishing 三聯書店.....32 D1
- King Fook 景福珠寶.....33 E1
- Linva Tailor 年華時裝公司.....34 C1
- Mir Oriental Carpets.....35 C4
- Mountain Folkcraft 高山民藝.....36 D3
- Olympia Graeco-Egyptian Coffee
奧林比亞接臣咖啡.....37 B3
- Photo Scientific 攝影科學.....38 D2
- Rock Candy.....39 B1

Tai Sing Fine Antiques

- 大成古玩有限公司.....40 E3
- Tai Yip Art Book Centre
大業藝苑.....41 C2
- Teresa Coleman Fine Arts.....42 C2
- Tibetan Gallery.....43 C3
- Tse Sui Luen 謝瑞麟珠寶.....44 E2

Wah Tung China Arts

- 華通陶瓷藝術有限.....45 B1
- Wattis Fine Art.....46 C2

EATING

- Archie B's New York Deli.....47 B2
- Assaf.....48 C1
- Beyrouth Café Central.....49 B1
- Bon Appetit.....50 D3
- Café des Artistes.....51 D3
- Caramba!.....52 B2
- Cecconi's Cantina.....53 B2
- Chilli Fagara.....54 B2
- Club Qing.....(see 84)
- Cru Wine & Grill.....55 A1
- Flying Pan.....56 B2
- Hotdog.....57 C2
- Ivan the Kozak.....58 C2
- Jimmy's Kitchen.....59 E3
- Koh-i-Noor 寶軒印度餐廳.....60 D3
- Kyoto Joe.....61 D3
- La Kasbah.....(see 79)
- Life.....62 B2
- Luk Yu Tea House 陸羽茶室.....63 D2
- M at the Fringe.....64 D4
- Mak's Noodle 麥天雲吞麵世家...65 C1
- Mozart Stub'n.....66 C4
- Nepal.....67 B2
- Cigar Express Central.....68 B2
- Olive.....68 B2
- Olé Spanish Restaurant & Wine
Bar.....69 D4

Shops Antiques

- Peak Cafe Bar 山頂餐廳酒吧.....70 B2
- Spot 97.....(see 84)
- Rughetta.....71 C2
- Shui Hu Ju 水滸居.....72 A2
- Sichuan Cuisine Da Ping Huo
四川菜大平伙.....73 B1
- Song.....74 B1
- Stonegrill.....75 B2
- Thai Lemongrass.....(see 2)
- Tokio Joe.....76 D3
- Tsui Wah 翠華茶餐廳.....77 D2
- Va Bene.....78 D3
- Veda.....79 C4
- Yun Fu 雲府.....80 C3
- Yung Kee Restaurant 鑄記.....81 D3

ENTERTAINMENT

- Bohemian Lounge.....82 B2
- Cavern.....83 D3
- Club 97.....84 D3
- Drop.....85 C2
- Fringe Gallery.....(see 5)
- Fringe Studio Theatre
香港藝穗會小劇場.....(see 5)

Homebase.....86 C2

- Insomnia.....87 D3
- Propaganda.....88 C2
- Red Rock.....89 C3
- Works.....90 C4
- Yumla.....(see 42)

DRINKING

- Bar 1911.....91 B2
- Bar George.....92 D3
- Barco.....93 A1
- Bit Point.....94 D3
- Bliss.....(see 39)
- Club 71 七一吧.....95 B1
- Dragon-L.....96 C3
- Feather Boa.....97 A2
- Hotdog.....(see 118)
- Gecko Lounge.....98 C2
- Globe.....99 B2
- Joyce Is Not Here.....100 B1
- La Dolce Vita.....101 D3
- Le Jardin.....102 C3
- Lotus.....103 C2
- Soda.....(see 42)
- Solas.....(see 96)
- Staunton's Wine Bar & Cafe.....104 B2
- Tivo.....105 C3
- V-13.....106 B2
- Whiskey Priest.....107 D3
- Yun Fu 雲府.....(see 80)

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

- California Fitness.....108 D3
- DK Aromatherapy.....109 B2
- Fightin' Fit.....110 D1
- Happy Foot Reflexology Centre
知足樂.....111 C1
- Healing Plants 草本堂.....112 C2
- Hong Kong Institute of
Languages.....113 D2
- Pure Fitness.....114 B2
- Yoga Central.....115 D3
- Yoga Fitness.....116 D4
- Yoga Plus.....(see 118)

SLEEPING

- HanLun Habitats (Main Office)....117 D2
- Hotel LKF 蘭桂坊酒店.....118 C3
- Ice House.....119 D3
- Shama Main Office.....120 B1

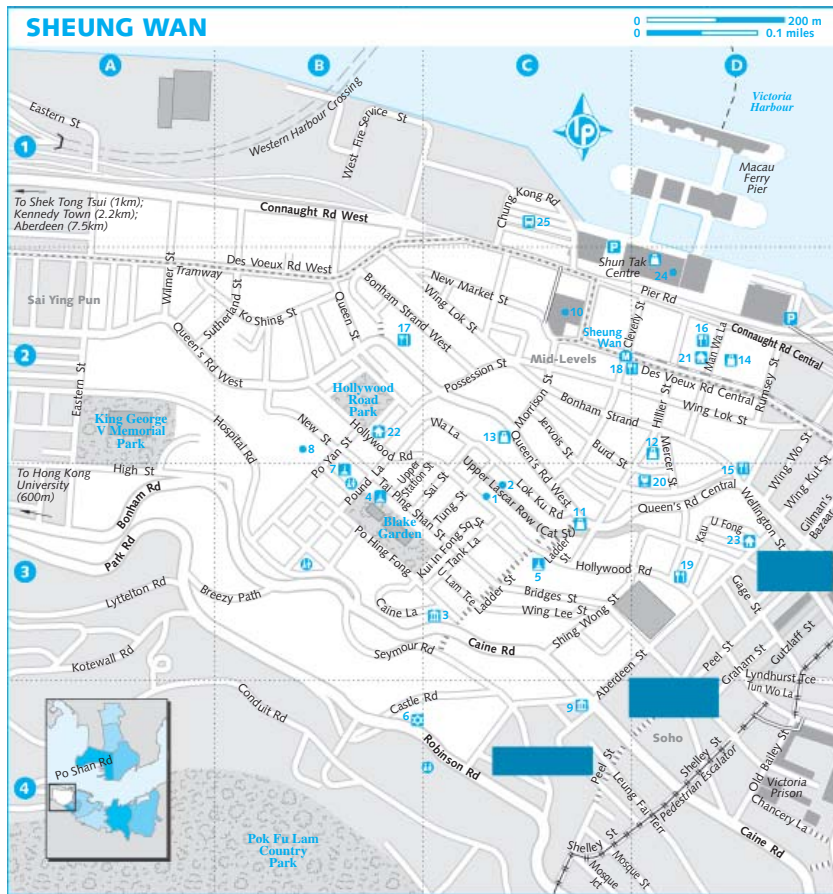
TRANSPORT

- Concorde Travel.....121 E3
- Natoria Travel
樂途旅遊有限公司.....(see 7)

now venerated as the red-deer god of war; he is holding a sword. Kwan Yu's popularity in Hong Kong probably has more to do with his additional status as the patron god of restaurants, pawnshops, the police force and secret societies such as the Triads (see p29).

Outside the main entrance are four gilt plaques on poles that are carried at proces-

sion time. Two plaques describe the gods being worshipped inside, while others request silence and respect within the temple grounds and warn menstruating women to keep out of the main hall. Inside the temple are two 19th-century sedan chairs shaped like houses, which are used to carry the two gods at festival time. The coils suspended from the roof are incense



cones burned as offerings by worshippers. Off to the side are fortune-tellers ready and willing to tell you of your (undoubtedly excellent) fate.

QUEEN'S ROAD WEST INCENSE SHOPS

Map p70
26
 Head along Queen's Rd West, about 200m past the end of Hollywood Rd, and you'll find two or three shops selling incense and paper offerings. These are burned to propitiate the spirits of the dead and make a consumer heaven of their hell. There's quite a choice of spirit-world comestibles, including complete mini-sets of kitchenware, cars, gold and silver ingots, the popular hell banknotes, and even computers and personal stereos.

CAT ST

Map p70
9am-6pm; 26
 Southwest of Sheung Wan MTR station and just north of (and parallel to) Hollywood Rd is **Upper Lascar Row**, the official name of 'Cat St', a pedestrians-only lane lined with antique and curio shops and stalls selling found objects, cheap jewellery, ornaments, carvings and newly minted ancient coins. It's a fun place to trawl through for a trinket or two, but expect more rough than diamonds. There are proper shops on three floors of the **Cat Street Galleries** (Casey Bldg, 38 Lok Ku Rd; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Sat), a small shopping centre entered from Upper Lascar Row.

WESTERN MARKET

Map p70
 ☎ 2815 3586; 323 Des Voeux Rd Central & New Market St; ☎ 9am-7pm; MTR Sheung Wan (exit B)

SHEUNG WAN

| SIGHTS | (pp67-71) | SHOPPING | (pp162-3) | DRINKING | (p208) |
|--|-----------|--|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Asia Art Archive | 1 C3 | Lock Cha Tea Shop 樂茶軒 | 11 C3 | Rice Bar | 20 D3 |
| Cat Street Galleries | 2 C3 | Po Kee Fishing Tackle 寶記 | 12 D2 | SLEEPING | (pp250-2) |
| Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences 香港醫學博物館 | 3 C3 | Queen's Rd West Incense Shops | 13 C2 | Bauhinia Furnished Suites | 21 D2 |
| Kwun Yam Temple 觀音廟 | 4 B3 | Wing On 永安 | 14 D2 | Central Park Hotel | |
| Man Mo Temple 文武廟 | 5 C3 | EATING | (pp182-3) | 中環麗柏酒店 | 22 B2 |
| Ohel Leah Synagogue 莉亞堂 | 6 B4 | Gaia Ristorante | 15 D3 | Lan Kwai Fong Hotel | |
| Pak Sing Ancestral Hall 百姓廟 | 7 B3 | Grand Stage 大舞臺飯店 | (see 10) | 蘭桂坊酒店 | 23 D3 |
| Para/Site Artspace 藝術空間 | 8 B2 | Honeymoon Dessert | (see 10) | TRANSPORT | (pp269-86) |
| Sun Yat Sen Museum 孫中山紀念館 | 9 C4 | Korea House Restaurant | 16 D2 | Hong Kong Express 香港快運 | 24 D2 |
| Western Market 西港城 | 10 C2 | Leung Hing Chiu Chow Seafood Restaurant 兩興潮州海鮮飯店 | 17 B2 | Macau Ferry Bus Terminus | |
| | | Man Fai 文輝 | 18 C2 | 港澳碼頭巴士總站 | 25 C1 |
| | | Qing 請 | 19 D3 | | |

When the textile vendors were driven out of the lanes linking Queen's and Des Voeux Rds Central in the early 1990s, they were moved to this renovated old market (1906) with its distinctive four-corner towers. You'll find knock-knacks, jewellery and toys on the ground floor, piece goods on the 1st floor and bolts of cloth on the floors above it.

MAN WA LANE

Map p70
MTR Sheung Wan (exit A1)

Just a block east of the Sheung Wan MTR station, this narrow alley is a good introduction to traditional Sheung Wan. Stalls here specialise in name chops: a stone (or wood or jade) seal that has a name carved in Chinese on the base. When dipped in pasty red Chinese ink, the name chop can be used as a stamp or even a 'signature'. The merchant will create a harmonious and auspicious Chinese name for you.

POSSESSION ST

Map p70
26

A short distance west of Cat St, next to **Hollywood Road Park** and before Hollywood Rd meets Queen's Rd West, is Possession St. This is thought to be where Commodore

Gordon Bremmer and a contingent of British marines planted the Union flag on 26 January 1841 and claimed Hong Kong Island for the Crown (though no plaque marks the spot). Queen's Rd runs in such a serpentine fashion as it heads eastward because it once formed the shoreline of Hong Kong Island's northern coast, and this part of it was called Possession Point.

TAI PING SHAN TEMPLES

Map p70
26

Tai Ping Shan, a tiny neighbourhood in Sheung Wan and one of the first areas to be settled by Chinese after the founding of the colony, has several small temples clustered around where Tai Ping Shan St meets Pound Lane. **Kwun Yam Temple** (34 Tai Ping Shan St) honours the ever-popular goddess of mercy, Kun lam – the Taoist equivalent of the Virgin Mary. Further to the northwest, the recently renovated **Pak Sing Ancestral Hall** (42 Tai Ping Shan St) was originally a store-room for bodies awaiting burial in China. It contains the ancestral tablets of around 3000 departed souls.

HONG KONG'S WHOLESALE DISTRICT

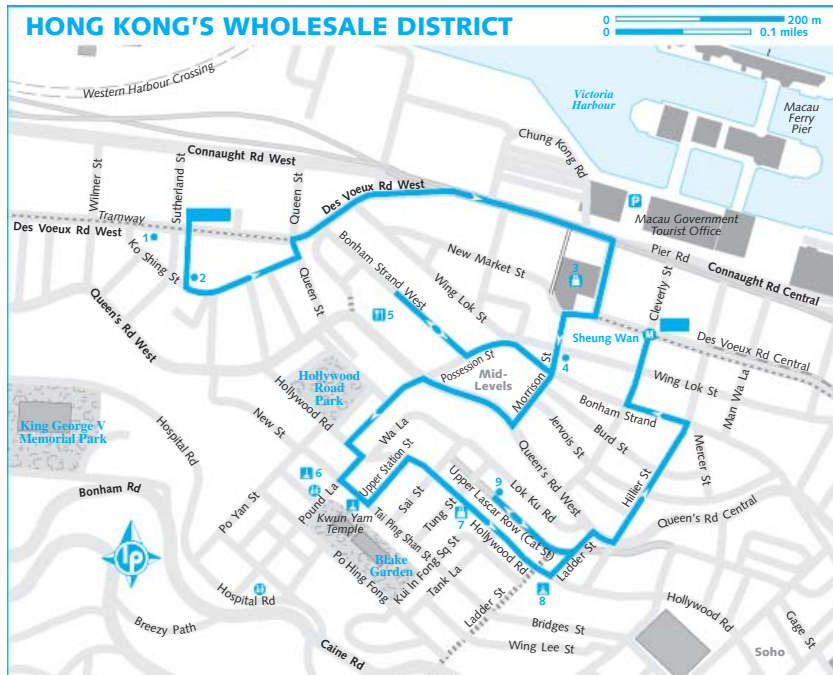
Walking Tour

1 Dried Seafood Shops Begin the tour at the Sutherland St stop of the Kennedy Town tram. Have a look at (and a sniff of) Des Voeux Rd West's many shops piled with all manner of desiccated sea life.

2 Herbalist Shops Walk south on Sutherland St to Ko Shing St, to browse the positively medieval-sounding goods on offer from the herbal-medicine traders.

TRANSPORT – SHEUNG WAN

MTR Sheung Wan station on the Island line.
Bus Buses 5 and 5A from Central call at 10 Des Voeux Rd; bus 26 runs along Hollywood Rd (**Map p68**) between Sheung Wan and Central, Admiralty and Wan Chai.
Tram Runs along Des Voeux Rd Central and Des Voeux Rd West.
Macau Ferry Terminal at Shun Tak Centre.



3 Western Market At the end of Ko Shing St, re-enter Des Voeux Rd West and walk northeast. Continue along Connaught Rd West, where you'll find several floors of market stalls occupying the attractive colonial building housing the **Western Market** (p70).

4 Birds' Nests, Ginseng & Funeral Offerings Shops At the corner of Morrison St, walk south past Wing Lok St and Bonham Strand, which are both lined with shops selling ginseng root and edible birds' nests. Turn right onto Queen's Rd Central to the shops selling paper funeral offerings for the dead.

5 Leung Hing Chiu Chow Seafood Restaurant Hungry? Turn left into Possession Street and take a detour to Bonham Strand West for a quick Chiu Chow fix (see p183).

6 Pak Sing Ancestral Hall & Kwun Yam Temple Take a left into Hollywood Rd and then right to ascend Pound Lane to where it meets Tai Ping Shan St, where you'll spot two **temples** (p71). Look to the right for Pak Sing Ancestral Hall and to the left for Kwun Yam Temple.

7 Hollywood Rd Turn left into Tai Ping Shan St, then left to descend Upper Station St to the start of Hollywood Rd's **antique shops** (see p156). There's a vast choice of curios and rare, mostly Chinese, treasures.

8 Man Mo Temple Continuing east on Hollywood Rd brings you to the **Man Mo Temple** (p67), one of the oldest in the territory and dedicated to the civil and martial gods Man Cheung and Kwan Yu.

9 Cat St Market Take a short hop to the left down Ladder St to Upper Lascar Row, home of the **Cat St Market** (p70), well stocked with Chinese memorabilia and inexpensive curios and gift items. Ladder St brings you back to Queen's Rd Central. Cross the road and follow

WALK FACTS

Start Kennedy Town tram (Sutherland St stop)

End Sheung Wan MTR station (entrance/exit B)

Distance 1.9km

Time One hour

Fuel stop Leung Hing Chiu Chow Seafood Restaurant

top picks

HONG KONG'S BEST FREEBIES

- The spectacle from the public viewing gallery viewing deck at the **Bank of China** (p58).
- **Chi Lin Nunnery** (p102), where peace and serenity doesn't cost a cent.
- Wednesday is 'admission free' day at six **Hong Kong museums**: Hong Kong Heritage Museum (p125), Hong Kong Museum of Art (p90), Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence (p80), Hong Kong Museum of History (p95), Hong Kong Science Museum (p96) and Hong Kong Space Museum (p91), excluding Space Theatre.
- **Hong Kong Zoological & Botanic Gardens** (p58) for free walks and gratis squawks.
- **Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden** (p107), where the butterflies (and cows and dragonflies) are free.
- **Tian Tan Buddha** (p137) for a cost-free superlative.

Hillier St to Bonham Strand. Due north is the Sheung Wan MTR station.

CAUSEWAY BAY

Drinking & Nightlife p210; Eating p187; Shopping p165; Sleeping p255

Causeway Bay (Map p74), which is Tung Lo Wan (Copper Gong Bay) in Cantonese, was the site of a British settlement in the 1840s and was once an area of godowns (a Hong Kong 'business' or 'pidgin English' word for warehouses) and a well-protected harbour for fisherfolk and boatpeople.

The new Causeway Bay, one of Hong Kong's top shopping and nightlife areas, was built up from swampland and reclaimed land from the harbour. Jardine Matheson, one of Hong Kong's largest *hawng* (major trading houses or companies), set up shop here, which explains why many of the streets in the district bear its name: Jardine's Bazaar, Jardine's Crescent and Yee Wo St (the name for Jardine Matheson in Cantonese).

Causeway Bay is primarily for shopping, especially trendy clothing and, to a lesser degree, dining out. The biggest and best shopping centre is in **Times Square** (p166), an enormous block with offices, four floors of restaurants and 10 retail levels.

Causeway Bay is a relatively small but densely packed district. Canal Rd is its border to the west and Victoria Park is the eastern limit. From north to south it runs from the

harbour and the typhoon shelter to Leighton Rd. Tin Hau, the site of Hong Kong Island's most famous temple erected in honour of the queen of heaven, is at the southeastern edge of Victoria Park.

NOONDAY GUN Map p74

221 Gloucester Rd; MTR Causeway Bay (exit D1) Noel Coward made the so-called Noonday Gun famous with his satirical song *Mad Dogs and Englishmen* (1924), about colonials who braved the fierce heat of the mid-day sun while the local people sensibly remained indoors: 'In Hong Kong/they strike a gong/And fire off a noonday gun/To reprimand each inmate/Who's in late'. Apparently when Coward was invited to pull the lanyard, he was late and it didn't go off until 12.03pm.

Built in 1901 by Hotchkiss of Portsmouth this recoil-mounted 3lb cannon is one of the few vestiges of the colonial past in Causeway Bay and is its best-known landmark. The original six-pounder was lost during WWII; its replacement was deemed too noisy and was exchanged for the current gun in 1961. The gun stands in a small garden opposite the Excelsior Hotel on Gloucester Rd – the first plot of land to be sold by public auction in Hong Kong (1841) – and is fired at noon every day. Eight bells are then sounded, signalling the end of the forenoon watch. The gun also welcomes in the New Year at midnight on 31 December.

Exactly how this tradition got started remains a mystery. Some people say that Jardine Matheson fired the gun without permission to bid farewell to a departing managing director or to welcome one of its incoming ships. The authorities were so enraged by the company's insolence that, as

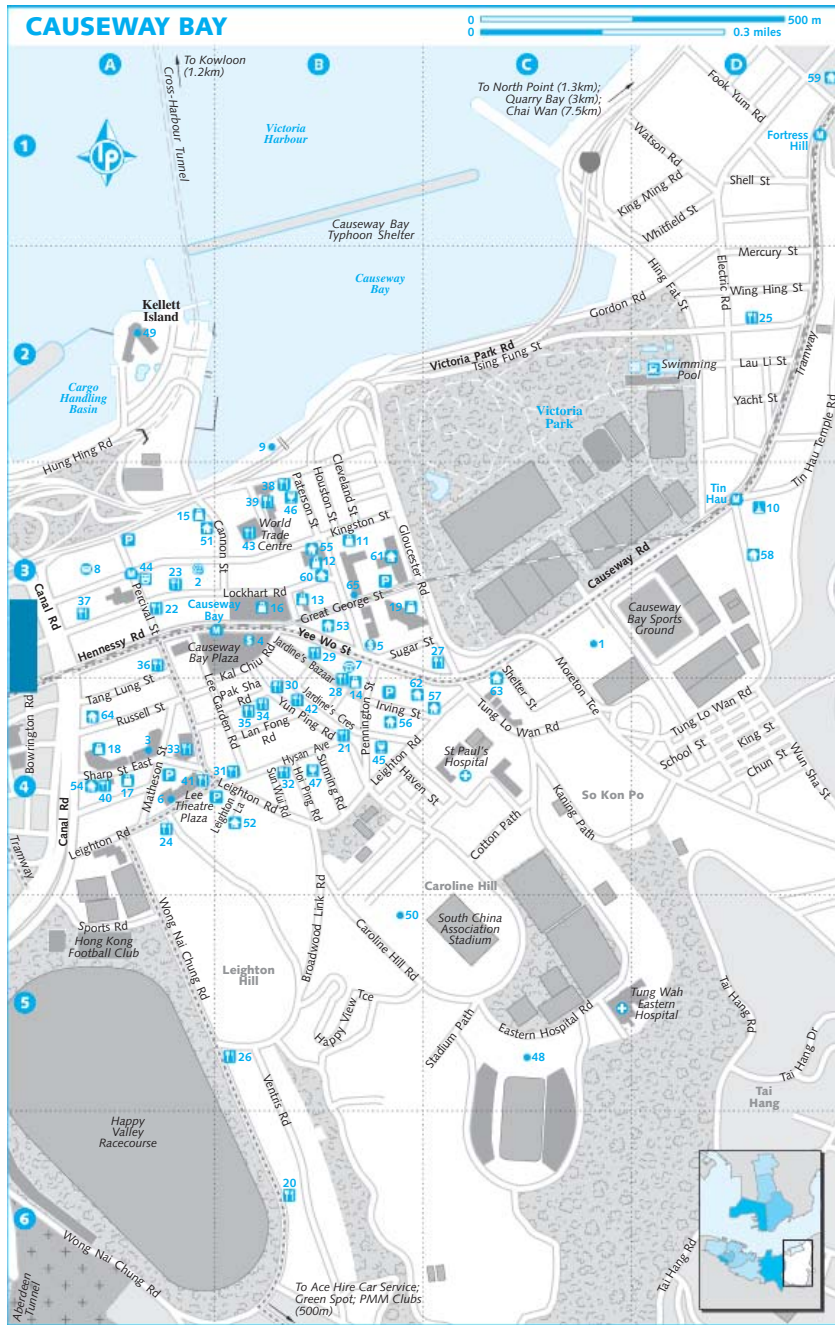
TRANSPORT – CAUSEWAY BAY

MTR Causeway Bay and Tin Hau stations on Central line.

Bus From Admiralty and Central, buses 5, 5B and 26 stop along Yee Wo St.

Green Minibus Bus 40 from Stanley calls along Tang Lung St and Yee Woo St.

Tram Along Hennessy Rd and Yee Wo St to Central and Shau Kei Wan; along Percival St to Happy Valley; along Wong Nai Chung Rd to Causeway Bay, Central, Kennedy Town, and Shau Kei Wan.



CAUSEWAY BAY

INFORMATION

- Central Library 中央圖書館.....1 C3
- Cyber Pro Internet.....2 A3
- Food Forum 食通天.....3 A4
- Hong Kong Island HKTBC Centre
港島旅客諮詢及服務中心.....4 B3
- HSBC 匯豐銀行.....5 B3
- Leighton Centre 禮頓中心.....6 A4
- PCCW i.Shop.....7 B3
- Post Office 郵局.....8 A3
- Towngs Cooking Centre
煤氣烹飪中心.....(see 6)

SIGHTS

- Noonday Gun 香港怡和午炮.....9 B2
- Tin Hau Temple 天后廟.....10 D3

SHOPPING

- D-Mop.....11 B3
- Dada Cabaret Voltaire.....12 B3
- HMV.....(see 19)
- I.t.....(see 18)
- In Square.....(see 19)
- Island Beverley 金百利商場.....13 B3
- Jardine's Bazaar 渣甸坊.....14 B4
- Kitty House Gifts Shop.....(see 12)
- Lane Crawford 連卡佛.....(see 18)
- Mountaineering Services.....15 A3
- Rainbow City.....(see 13)
- Sister.....(see 13)
- Sogo 崇光百貨.....16 B3
- Spy.....17 A4
- Times Square 時代廣場.....18 A4
- Walter Ma.....(see 54)
- Watson's Wine Cellar 酒窖.....(see 19)
- Windsor House 皇室堡.....19 B3

EATING

- Amigo.....20 B6
- Cafe One.....(see 61)
- Caroline Centre 嘉蘭中心.....21 B4
- Chuen Cheung Kui 泉章居.....22 A3
- Citysuper.....(see 18)
- Citysuper.....23 A3
- Heichinrou.....(see 54)
- Indonesian Restaurant 1968.....24 A4
- Kin's Kitchen 留家廚房.....25 D2
- Kissho 吉祥.....26 B5
- Kung Tak Lam.....27 C3
- Mak's Noodle 麥奕雲吞麵世家.....28 B4
- Man Fai 文輝.....29 B3
- Mi-Nei Sushi 峰壽司.....30 B4
- Pak Lok Chiu Chow Restaurant
百樂樓.....31 B4
- Queen's Cafe.....32 B4
- Sorabol Korean Restaurant
新羅寶韓國餐廳.....33 A4
- Sushi Hiro 壽司廣.....34 B4
- Tai Ping Koon 太平館.....35 B4
- Thai Shing 泰成菜館.....36 A3
- Tomokazu 友和日本料理.....37 A3
- Towngs Avenue.....38 B3
- Tsui Wah 翠華餐廳.....39 B3
- W's Entrecôte 法式牛扒屋.....40 A4
- Xi Yan - Tastes 饌壹品味.....41 A4
- Xinjishi.....42 B4
- Yin Ping Vietnamese Restaurant
燕萍越南菜館.....43 B3

ENTERTAINMENT

- Causeway Lounge 銅鑼吧.....44 A3
- Wasabisabi 山葵.....(see 54)
- Windsor Cinema 皇室戲院.....(see 19)

DRINKING

- Brecht's Circle.....45 B4
- Dickens Bar.....46 B3
- East End Brewery & Inn Side Out.....47 B4

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

- Hong Kong Stadium.....48 C5
- Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club
香港遊艇會.....49 A2
- South China Athletic Association
南華體育會.....50 B5

SLEEPING

- Alisan Guest House 阿里山賓館.....51 A3
- Asia Hostel 亞洲旅館.....(see 55)
- Causeway Bay Guest House
華生旅舍.....52 B4
- Chung Kiu Inn 中橋賓館.....53 B3
- Express by Holiday Inn
香港銅鑼灣快捷假日酒店.....54 A4
- Hong Kong Hostel.....55 B3
- Jia.....56 B4
- Lanson Place.....57 C4
- Metropark Hotel 維景酒店.....58 D3
- Newton Hotel Hong Kong
麗東酒店.....59 D1
- Noble Hostel 高富旅館.....60 B3
- Park Lane Hong Kong 柏寧酒店.....61 B3
- Regal Hongkong Hotel
富豪香港酒店.....62 B4
- Rosedale on the Park
香港柏麗酒店.....63 C4
- Shama.....64 A4
- Wang Fat Hostel 宏發賓館.....(see 55)

TRANSPORT

- China Travel Service 中國旅行社.....65 B3

punishment, Jardine's was ordered to fire the gun every day. A more prosaic explanation is that, as at many ports around the world (including London), a gun was fired at noon daily so that ships' clocks – crucial for establishing longitude and east-west distances at sea – could be set accurately.

The Noonday Gun is accessible via a tunnel through the basement car park in the World Trade Centre, just west of the Excelsior Hotel. From the taxi rank in front of the hotel, look west for the door marked 'Car Park Shroff, Marina Club & Noon Gun'. It's open from 7am to midnight daily.

VICTORIA PARK Map p74

☎ 2890 5824; www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/ls_park.php; Causeway Rd; MTR Causeway Bay & Tin Hau

At 17 hectares, the biggest patch of public greenery on Hong Kong Island, Victoria Park is a popular place to escape to. The best time to stroll around is in the morning during the week, when it becomes a forest

of people practising the slow-motion choreography of tai chi. At the weekend they are joined by Indonesian *amahs*, who prefer it to Central (see boxed text, p60).

Between April and November you can take a dip in the **swimming pool** (☎ 2570 4682; adult/child 3-13 & senior over 60 \$19/9; 🕒 6.30am-10pm with 1hr closure at noon & 5pm Apr-Oct). The park becomes a flower market a few days before the Chinese New Year and is the site of the Hong Kong Flower Show in March. It's also worth a visit during the **Mid-Autumn Festival** (p17), when people turn out en masse carrying lanterns.

CAUSEWAY BAY TYPHOON SHELTER

Map p74
off Hung Hing Rd, Causeway Bay

Not so long ago the waterfront in Causeway Bay used to be a mass of junks and sampans huddling in the typhoon shelter for protection, but these days it's nearly all yachts. The land jutting out to the west

is Kellett Island, which has been a misnomer ever since a causeway connected it to the mainland in 1956, and further land reclamation turned it into a peninsula. It is home to the **Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club** (☎ 2832 2817), which retains its 'Royal' moniker in English only.

TIN HAU TEMPLE [Map p74](#)

☎ 2721 2326; 10 Tin Hau Temple Rd; ☎ 7am-6pm; MTR Tin Hau (exit B)

Southeast of Victoria Park, Hong Kong Island's most famous Tin Hau temple is relatively small and dwarfed by surrounding high-rises. Before reclamation, this temple dedicated to the patroness of seafarers stood on the waterfront. It has been a place of worship for three centuries, though the current structure is only about 200 years old. The temple bell dates from 1747, and the central shrine contains an effigy of Tin Hau with a blackened face.

CENTRAL LIBRARY [Map p74](#)

☎ 3150 1234; www.hkpl.gov.hk; 66 Causeway Rd; ☎ 10am-9pm Thu-Tue, 1-9pm Wed, 10am-7pm some public holidays; ☎ Shau Kei Wan

This architectural monstrosity, a 12-storey neoclassical-postmodern building with ionic columns, a Roman pediment and sandy-yellow tiles, is both a research and lending library and contains some 1.2 million volumes (p294). It also has some 24 public-access computer terminals where you can check emails and surf the web.

WESTERN DISTRICTS

Beyond Sheung Wan are the districts of Sai Ying Pun and Shek Tong Tsui ([Map pp54-5](#)), which are often lumped together as 'Western' by English speakers, and Kennedy Town, a working-class Chinese district at the end of the tramline.

Kennedy Town's maritime connections can still be felt the closer you get to the Praya (officially Kennedy Town New Praya) – from the Portuguese *praia* meaning 'beach' or 'coast',

TRANSPORT – WESTERN DISTRICTS

Bus Bus 3B from Jardine House in Central, bus 23, 40 or 40M from Admiralty, and bus 103 from Gloucester Rd in Causeway Bay all stop along Bonham Rd ([Map p70](#)).

which was commonly used in Hong Kong in the days when Portuguese merchants were a force to be reckoned with on the high seas.

The area wedged between the Mid-Levels and Sheung Wan doesn't have an official name as such but is usually called Pok Fu Lam after the main thoroughfare running through it. It's a district of middle-class housing blocks, colleges and Hong Kong's most prestigious university.

HONG KONG UNIVERSITY [Map pp54-5](#)

☎ 2859 2111; www.hku.hk; Pok Fu Lam Rd; ☎ 23 & 40M from D'Aguilar St in Central

Established in 1911, HKU is the oldest and most prestigious of Hong Kong's eight universities. The **Main Building**, completed in the Edwardian style in 1912, is a declared monument. Several other early-20th-century buildings on the campus, including the **Hung Hing Ying** (1919) and **Tang Chi Ngong Buildings** (1929), are also protected.

The **University Museum & Art Gallery** (☎ 2241 5513; www.hku.hk/hkumag; Fung Ping Shan Bldg, 94 Bonham Rd; admission free; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Mon-Sat, 1.30-5.30pm Sun), to the left of the university's Main Building and opposite the start of Hing Hon Rd, houses collections of ceramics and bronzes, plus a lesser number of paintings and carvings. The bronzes are in three groups: Shang and Zhou-dynasty ritual vessels; decorative mirrors from the Warring States period to the Tang, Song, Ming and Qing dynasties; and almost 1000 small Nestorian crosses from the Yuan dynasty, the largest such collection in the world. (The Nestorians formed a Christian sect that arose in Syria, were branded heretics, and moved into China during the 13th and 14th centuries.)

THE MID-LEVELS

Eating [p182](#); Sleeping [p250](#)

The Mid-Levels ([Map p77](#)) have relatively little to offer tourists in the way of sights, though there are a few gems, particularly houses of worship, hidden within the forest of marble-clad apartment blocks. Check out the **Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception** ([Map p77](#); ☎ 2523 0384; 16 Caine Rd), built in 1888 and financed largely by the Portuguese faithful from Macau; the **Jamia Mosque** ([Map p77](#); ☎ 2526 0786; 30 Shelley St), erected in 1849 and also called the Lascar Mosque; and the Ohel Leah Synagogue ([opposite](#)).

Another district with rather elastic boundaries, the Mid-Levels stretches roughly from Hong Kong University and Pok Fu Lam in the

west to Kennedy Rd in the east. Caine Rd is the northern boundary and the Peak the southern one. But the Mid-Levels are as much a state of mind as a physical area, and some people regard the middle-class residential areas further east to be the Mid-Levels as well.

DR SUN YAT SEN MUSEUM [Map p70](#)

☎ 2367 6373; www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/sysm; 7 Castle Lane, Mid-Levels; adult/concession \$10/5, free after 2pm Tue; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Wed & Fri-Sat, 10am-7pm Sun; ☎ 3B, alight at the Hong Kong Baptist Church on Caine Rd

Sun Yat Sen was an early 20th-century revolutionary, dedicated to overthrowing the Qing dynasty, and a key figure in modern Chinese history. He had many links with Hong Kong, not least of them being his education here and his formative experience of the colony's order and efficiency (standing in stark contrast to China at the time). The displays here are rather stodgy and worthy but Dr Sun's story is one of the more interesting chapters in China's history, so it's certainly worth a visit. Audio guides cost \$10.

HONG KONG MUSEUM OF MEDICAL SCIENCES [Map p70](#)

☎ 2549 5123; www.hkms.org.hk; 2 Caine Lane; adult/concession \$10/5, free after 2pm Tue; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sat, 1-5pm Sun; ☎ 3B alight at Ladder St bus stop on Caine Rd

This small museum houses medical implements and accoutrements (including an old dentistry chair, an autopsy table, herbal-medicine vials and chests) and offers a

rundown on how Hong Kong coped with the 1984 bubonic plague, but is less interesting for its exhibits than for its architecture. It is housed in what was once the Pathological Institute, a breezy Edwardian-style brick-and-tile structure built in 1905 and fronted by palms and bauhinia trees. The exhibits comparing Chinese and Western approaches to medicine are unusual and instructive.

OHLEH LEAH SYNAGOGUE [Map p70](#)

☎ 2589 2621, 2857 6095; 70 Robinson Rd; admission free; ☎ 10.30am-7pm Mon-Thu (by appointment only); ☎ 3B or 23

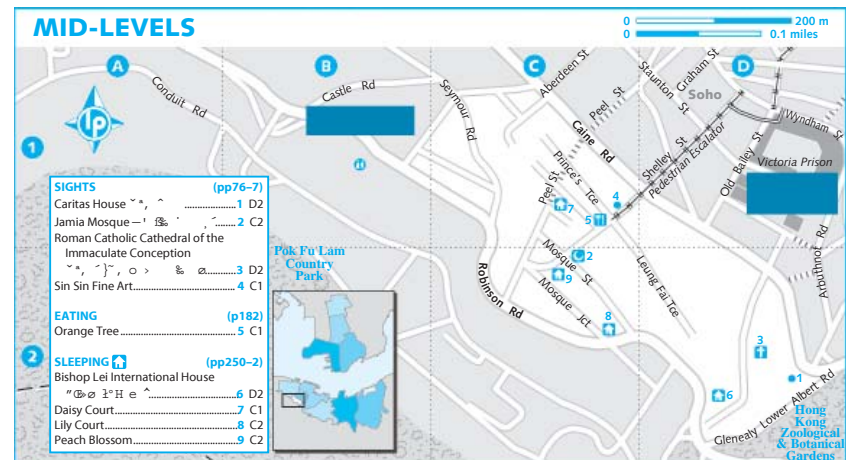
This renovated Moorish Romantic temple, completed in 1902 when that style of architecture was all the rage in Europe, is named after Leah Gubbay Sassoon, matriarch of a wealthy (and philanthropic) Sephardic Jewish family that traced its roots back to the beginning of the colony. Be sure to bring some sort of ID if you plan to visit the sumptuous interior.

TRANSPORT – THE MID-LEVELS

Bus Bus 26 from Central calls along Hollywood Rd ([Map p68](#)); bus 3B from Jardine House in Central and bus 23 from Admiralty stop at Robinson Rd ([Map p56](#)).

Green Minibus Bus 8 or 22 from Central call at Caine Rd and Ladder St ([Map p70](#)).

Central Escalator ([Map p56](#)) For Caine Rd (museum) and Robinson Rd (synagogue).



THE PEAK

Eating p183

On your first clear day in Hong Kong, make tracks for the cooler climes of the Peak (Map pp54–5), the highest point on the island. Not only is the view one of the most spectacular cityscapes in the world, it's also a good way to put Hong Kong and its layout into perspective. Repeat the trip up on a clear night; the views of illuminated Central below and Tsim Sha Tsui across the harbour in Kowloon are superb.

The Peak has been *the* place to live in Hong Kong ever since the British arrived. Taipans (company bosses) built summer houses here to escape the heat and humidity.

When people refer to the Peak, they generally mean the plateau (elevation 370m) with the seven-level Peak Tower, the huge titanium anvil rising above the Peak Tram terminus and containing themed venues, shops and restaurants; they don't mean the summit itself.

Half the fun of going up to the Peak is riding the **Peak Tram** (see boxed text, right; see also p283). In 1885 everyone thought Phineas Kyrie and William Kerfoot Hughes were mad when they announced their intention to build a tramway to the top, but it opened three years later, silencing the scoffers and wiping out the sedan-chair trade in one fell swoop.

VICTORIA PEAK

Some 500m to the northwest of the Peak Tram terminus up steep Mt Austin Rd, Victoria Peak (552m) is the highest point on Hong Kong Island. The old governor's mountain lodge near the summit was burned to the ground by the Japanese during WWII, but the gardens remain and are open to the public.

You can walk around Victoria Peak without exhausting yourself. Harlech Rd on the south side and Lugard Rd on the northern slope together form a 3.5km loop that takes about an hour to walk. If you feel like a longer walk, you can continue for a further 2km along Peak Rd to Pok Fu Lam Reservoir Rd, which leaves Peak Rd near the car-park exit. This goes past the reservoir to the main Pok Fu Lam Rd, where you can get bus 7 to Aberdeen or back to Central.

Another good walk leads down to **Hong Kong University** (p76). First walk to the west side of Victoria Peak by taking either Lugard or Harlech Rds. After reaching Hatton Rd, follow it down. The descent is steep, but the path is clear.

For information on the 50km-long **Hong Kong Trail**, which starts on the Peak, see p225.

PEAK GALLERIA

118 Peak Rd; **Peak Tram**
Both the Peak Tower and the neighbouring Peak Galleria are designed to withstand winds of up to 270km/h, theoretically more than the maximum velocity of a No 10 typhoon. You can reach the Peak Galleria's viewing deck, which is larger than the one in the Peak Tower, by taking the escalator to level 3. Inside the centre you'll find a number of expensive restaurants and retail shops, from art galleries to duty-free stores.

PEAK TOWER

128 Peak Rd; **Peak Tram**
The Peak Tower, with its attractions, shops and restaurants, is a good place to bring the kids. On level 4 there's an outpost of **Madame Tussauds** (2849 6966; adult/child \$120/70; 10am–10pm), with eerie (and scary) wax likenesses of international stars as well as local celebrities, such as Jackie Chan, Andy Lau, Michelle Yeoh and Kelly Chen. There is an open-air viewing terrace with coin-operated binoculars on level 5.

LOVER'S ROCK

Off Bowen Rd; **green minibus 24A**
A kilometre or so northeast of the Police Museum is what the Chinese call Yan Yuen Sek, a phallus-shaped boulder on a bluff at the end of a track above Bowen Rd. This is a favourite pilgrimage site for childless women and those who think their lovers, husbands or sons could use the help of prayer and a joss stick or two. It's especially

TRANSPORT – THE PEAK

Peak Tram Join the tram at the lower terminus on Cotton Tree Drive (Map p56). The service disgorges passengers in Peak Tower (entrance level 4, exit level 3).

Bus Bus 15 from Central bus terminus below Exchange Square (Map p56), bus 15B from Wan Chai and Causeway Bay (Map p65) via Police Museum, Caine Rd and Ladder St all terminate at the bus station below the Peak Galleria.

Green Minibus Bus 1 from Edinburgh Pl (southeast of City Hall) in Central and bus 24A from Admiralty terminate at the Peak.

busy during the Maidens' Festival held on the seventh day of the seventh moon (mid-August). The easiest way to reach here is to take green minibus 24A from the Admiralty bus station. Get off at the terminus (Shiu Fai Tce) and walk up the path behind the housing complex.

POLICE MUSEUM

2849 7019; www.police.gov.hk/hkp-home/english/museum; **27 Coombe Rd;** admission free; 2–5pm Tue, 9am–5pm Wed–Sun; 15 or 15B, **alight at the stop btwn Stubbs Rd & Peak Rd** Housed in a former police station, this seldom-visited museum in neighbouring Wan Chai Gap, an attractive residential area en route to the Peak, deals with the history of the Hong Kong Police Force, which was formed in 1844. It's small and rather static, although the intriguing Triad Societies Gallery and the very well-supplied Narcotics Gallery are worthwhile.

HAPPY VALLEY

Eating p188

Happy Valley (Map p74) – called *Páau-máa-dáy* (Horse Running Place) in Cantonese – has been a popular residential area for expats since the early days of British settlement, though, having built their houses on what turned out to be swampland, early residents had to contend with severe bouts of malaria. There are some interesting cemeteries to the west and southwest of Wong Nai Chung Rd. They are divided into Protestant, Roman Catholic, Muslim, Parsee and Hindu sections, and date back to the founding of Hong Kong as a colony. The district's most important drawcard, however, is the Happy Valley Racecourse. Happy Valley is essentially the racetrack in the centre of circular Wong Nai Chung Rd and the residential areas to the east and south, where the main streets are Shan Kwong, Sing Woo and Blue Pool Rds.

HAPPY VALLEY RACECOURSE

2895 1523, 2966 8111; www.happyvalleyracecourse.com; **2 Sports Rd;** Races usually held **Sep–Jun on Wed & weekends (1st race 7.30pm)**; **Happy Valley**

Horse racing, worth more than US\$1 billion annually, remains the most popular form of gambling in Hong Kong and it is one of the quintessential things to do while you're in town. The punters pack into the stands and trackside, and the atmosphere is electric.

The first horse races were held in 1846 at Happy Valley and became an annual event. Now meetings are held both here and at the newer and larger (but less atmospheric) **Sha Tin Racecourse** (p125) in the New Territories. For details on placing bets, see p230.

If you know nothing about horse racing but would like to attend, consider joining the Come Horseracing Tour available through **Gray Line** or **Splendid Tours & Travel** (p298) during the racing season. The tour includes admission to the Visitors' Box of the Hong Kong Jockey Club Members' Enclosures and buffet lunch. Tours scheduled at night last about 5½ hours, while daytime tours are about seven hours long.

Racing buffs can wallow in the history of the place at the **Hong Kong Racing Museum** (2966 8065; www.hkjc.com/english/museum/mu02_index.htm; 2nd fl, Happy Valley Stand, Wong Nai Chung Rd; admission free; 10am–5pm Tue–Sun, 10am–12.30pm on racing days), with eight galleries and a cinema showcasing celebrated trainers, jockeys and horseflesh, and key races over the past 150 years. The most important event in the history of the Happy Valley Racecourse – individual winnings notwithstanding – was the huge fire in 1918 that killed hundreds of people. Many of the victims were buried in the cemeteries surrounding the track.

ISLAND EAST

Drinking & Nightlife p210; Eating p189; Sleeping p257
Eastern (Map pp54–5) is a large district that is primarily residential, with some of Hong Kong Island's largest housing estates (eg Tai Koo Shing in Quarry Bay). As elsewhere on the island, however, office towers stand cheek by jowl with residential areas. There are not as many restaurants and nightspots in this area as there are in Central, Wan Chai and Causeway Bay to lure you onto the MTR's Central line, but the shopping is good and there are a handful of top-class museums.

The Eastern District runs from Causeway Bay to Siu Sai Wan, at the eastern end of Hong Kong Island's north coast. Major settlements are North Point, Quarry Bay, Sai Wan Ho, Shau Kei Wan and Chai Wan.

North Point & Quarry Bay

North Point, settled largely by Shanghainese after WWII, is a somewhat down-at-heel district with a couple of interesting markets, and

TRANSPORT – ISLAND EAST

MTR Central line from Causeway Bay.

Tram A more atmospheric alternative to the MTR, clatters sedately from Western Market (p70) in Sheung Wan to Shau Kei Wan.

North Point & Quarry Bay

MTR By far the easiest way to reach this area is to use the Island line with stations at North Point, Quarry Bay, Tai Koo, Sai Wan Ho, Shau Kei Wan, Heng Fa Chuen and Chai Wan. North Point and Quarry Bay are also on Tseung Kwan O line.

Bus North Point: To get to the North Point Ferry bus terminus from Tsim Sha Shui take bus 110 that runs down Canton Rd. From the south of the island, bus 38 comes from Aberdeen bus terminus (by the promenade) or bus 77 from Aberdeen Main Rd, which runs along King's Rd in North Point. Bus 63 (or 65 on Sundays) comes from Stanley (the bus terminus is just up from the market). The only direct bus from Shek O is the 309 on Sundays that runs along King's Rd in North Point.

Shau Kei Wan: To get to Shau Kai Wan bus terminus from Tsim Sha Shui take bus 110, which runs down Canton Rd. From the south of the island, take bus 77 from Aberdeen Main Rd. From Stanley bus 14 passes along Stanley Village Rd and takes you to Shau Kei Wan Rd close to the MTR station. From Shek O bus terminus take bus 9, which terminates at Shau Kei Wan MTR.

Tram If you're coming from Central or Admiralty, North Point has a tram terminus, as does Shau Kei Wan, which is at the end of the line.

Ferry North Point: You can reach North Point by ferry from Kwun Tong, Hung Hom and Kowloon City.

Sai Wan Ho: Ferries from Kwun Tong and Sam Ka Tsuen (by Lei Yue Mun) on the mainland arrive here. There are also Kaito services operating to Tung Lung Chau via Joss House Bay (although in significant quantities only on the weekend).

the **Sunbeam Theatre** (p218), one of the best places to see and hear Chinese opera. Tong Chong St opposite the Quarry Bay MTR station has had a face-lift in recent years and is something of a restaurant and nightlife strip. The main attraction at Quarry Bay is **Cityplaza** (p165).

Sai Wan Ho

HONG KONG FILM ARCHIVE Map pp54–5

☎ 2739 2139, bookings 2734 9009, 2119 7383; www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/cs_mus_lcsd.php; 50 Lei King Rd; admission free; ☎ main foyer 10am–8pm Mon–Wed & Fri–Sun, box office noon–8pm Mon–Wed & Fri, 10am–5pm Sat, 1–5pm Sun; MTR Sai Wan Ho

The archive, which opened in 2001, is well worth a visit, even if you know nothing about Hong Kong films and film-making. It preserves, catalogues and studies – there are more than 6300 in the vaults – and related material such as magazines, posters, records and scripts; there's a small exhibition hall with themed exhibits (opening hours vary), including videos with subtitles, and a 127-seat **cinema** (☎ 2734 9009) that shows Hong Kong and other films here throughout the year for \$30 to \$50.

To reach the film archive from the Sai Wan Ho MTR station, follow exit A, walk north on Tai On St and west on Lei King Rd.

Shau Kei Wan

HONG KONG MUSEUM OF COASTAL DEFENCE Map pp54–5

☎ 2569 1500; www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/cs_mus_lcsd.php; 175 Tung Hei Rd; adult/concession \$10/5, admission free Wed; ☎ 10am–5pm Fri–Wed; MTR Shau Kei Wan

This museum doesn't exactly sound like a crowd pleaser but the displays it contains are as much about peace as war. Part of the fun is just to enjoy the museum's location. It has been built into the Lei Yue Mun Fort (1887), which took quite a beating during WWII, and has sweeping views down to the Lei Yue Mun Channel and southeastern Kowloon.

Exhibitions in the old redoubt, which you reach by elevator from street level, cover Hong Kong's coastal defence over six centuries – from the Ming and Qing dynasties, through the colonial years and Japanese invasion, to the resumption of Chinese sovereignty. There's a historical trail through the casemates, tunnels and observation posts almost down to the coast.

To reach the museum take the MTR to Shau Kei Wan station (exit B2). Then follow the museum signs on busy Tung Hei Rd for about 15 minutes. Bus 85, which is accessible via exit A3 and runs along Shau Kei Wan Rd between North Point and Siu Sai Wan, stops on Tung Hei Rd outside the museum.

Chai Wan

LAW UK FOLK MUSEUM Map pp54–5

☎ 2896 7006; www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/cs_mus_lcsd.php; 14 Kut Shing St; admission free; ☎ 10am–6pm Mon–Wed & Fri–Sat, 1–6pm Sun; MTR Chai Wan This small museum, a branch of the Hong Kong Museum of History dating from 1990, is housed in two restored Hakka village houses that have been standing in Chai Wan (Firewood Bay) – a district of nondescript office buildings, warehouses and workers' flats – for more than two centuries. The quiet courtyard and surrounding bamboo groves are peaceful and evocative, and the displays – furniture, household items and farming implements – simple but charming.

To reach the museum from the Chai Wan MTR station, follow exit B and walk for five minutes to the west.

ISLAND SOUTH

Drinking & Nightlife p210; Eating p189

Though largely residential, the Southern District (Map pp54–5), which encompasses

everything from Big Wave Bay and Shek O in the east to Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau in the west, is full of attractions. At times it can feel like Hong Kong Island's backyard playground – from the beaches of Repulse Bay and Deep Water Bay and the outdoor activities available at Shek O, to Stanley Market, the shoppers' paradise, and Ocean Park, the large amusement and theme park near Aberdeen.

Shek O lies halfway down a long peninsula in the southeast of Hong Kong Island; Stanley village is at the start of the next peninsula over, but you'll have to travel a bit further south to reach the best beach on Stanley peninsula. Further west along the southern coast is Repulse Bay, with its ever-heaving beach, Kwun Yam shrine, lucky bridge and posh shopping complex, and then Deep Water Bay, a much more serene beach and one of the best places in Hong Kong for wakeboarding (see p229).

Aberdeen is at the western edge of the southern coast. From here, buses return to the northern side of the island either through the Aberdeen Tunnel or Pok Fu Lam Rd along the west coast.

Buses, and to a lesser extent green minibuses, are the best form of transport for getting to and around the southern part of Hong Kong Island. Though some go via the Aberdeen Tunnel, many buses (eg bus 6 to Stanley and Repulse Bay) climb over the hills separating the north and south sides of the island. It's a scenic, winding ride; for the outbound trip,

TRANSPORT – ISLAND SOUTH

Bus Shek O: The easiest way to reach Shek O is to take bus 9 from Shau Kei Wan MTR station (exit A3). Bus 309 (Sunday and holidays only) runs here from Central, below Exchange Square. If you're coming from Stanley, take bus 14 and change to bus 9 on Tai Tam Rd, at the junction with Shek O Rd.

Stanley: From Shau Kei Wan take bus 14 from Shau Kei Wan Rd, a short walk from the MTR station (exit A3). Bus 6, 6A, 6X, 66 or 260 all leave for here from Central, below Exchange Square.

Aberdeen: From Aberdeen buses 73 and 973 run to Stanley. Both from Aberdeen Main Rd and the latter from the bus terminus, too, by the promenade. Buses 73 and 973 also run here from Repulse Bay beach. From Tsim Sha Tsui take bus 973 that leaves from Concordia Plaza by the science museum. Green minibus 40 (24 hours) runs from Times Square to Stanley via Tang Lung St and Yee Woo St in Causeway Bay (Map p74).

Repulse Bay: From Central, below Exchange Square, take bus 6, 6A, 6X, 66 or 260. From Stanley (the terminus is just up from the market) take 6, 6A, 6X, 66 or 260, which go on to Central, or 73 or 973. To get here from Aberdeen take bus 73 or 973 – both stop on Aberdeen Main Rd and the latter at the bus terminus, too. From Tsim Sha Tsui take bus 973 that leaves from Concordia Plaza by the science museum.

Deep Water Bay: From Central, below Exchange Square, take bus 6A, 6X or 260. From Stanley (the terminus is just up from the market) take bus 6A, 6X or 260, which go on to Central, or 73 or 973. To get here from Aberdeen take bus 73 or 973 – both stop on Aberdeen Main Rd and the latter at the bus terminus too. From Tsim Sha Tsui take bus 973 that leaves from Concordia Plaza by the science museum.

make sure you sit on the upper deck on the right-hand side.

Aberdeen

For many years Aberdeen (Map p82) – or Heung Gong Tsai (Little Fragrant Harbour) in Cantonese – was one of Hong Kong's top tourist attractions because of the large number of people (up to 6000, in fact) who lived and worked on the junks and other traditional sailing craft moored in the harbour and in the Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter off Aberdeen Praya Rd to the west. Over the years the number of boats has dwindled as more and more of these boatpeople have moved into high-rises or abandoned fishing as a profession. These days the busy little harbour is still an attractive place to explore. It is also the home to popular [floating restaurants](#) (p190) and to [Ocean Park](#) (below), Hong Kong's first, and still, thriving, amusement park.

OCEAN PARK Map pp54–5

☎ 2552 0291; www.oceanpark.com.hk; Ocean Park Rd; adult/child 3-11 yr \$185/93; 🕒 9.30am-8pm; 🚗 6A, 6X, 70 & 75 from Central, 629 from Admiralty, 72, 72A & 92 from Causeway Bay or 973 from Tsim Sha Tsui

Hong Kong's original amusement park has scrubbed up well against its shiny, new Disneyland competitor on Lantau (see p141). The resurgent park has invested billions of dollars in revamping its rides and attractions, to good effect. Visitor numbers have been soaring (thanks in part to the influx of mainland visitors) and the arrival of two more young pandas in 2007, a gift from the mainland to mark Hong Kong's 10th year of independence, crowned its renaissance.

This excellent, fully fledged amusement and educational theme park has plenty of white-knuckle rides, such as the celebrated roller coaster called the Dragon, the Abyss 'turbo drop', and a marine park with sea lions and seals, daily dolphin and killer-whale shows, and aquariums. The Atoll Reef is particularly impressive, with over 2000 fish representing 200 species in residence. The walk-through Shark Aquarium has hundreds of different sharks on view and scores of rays. Bird-watchers are also catered for, with aviaries, a flamingo pond and the Amazing Birds Theatre, with regular aerial shows.

The park is divided into two sections. The main entrance is on the lowland side,

ABERDEEN

INFORMATION

HSBC 匯豐銀行 1 B2
Post Office 郵局 2 B2

SIGHTS

Hung Shing Shrine 洪聖古廟 3 B2
Tin Hau Temple 天后廟 4 B1

EATING

Jumbo Kingdom Floating Restaurant 珍寶海鮮舫 5 C3
Shan Loon Tse Kee Fish Ball 山巖謝記魚蛋 6 B2

Top Deck (see 5)

Wang Jia Sha 王家沙 7 B2

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Aberdeen Boat Club 香港仔遊艇會 8 D3
Aberdeen Marina Club 深灣遊艇俱樂部 9 D3

TRANSPORT

Aberdeen Bus Terminus 香港仔巴士總站 10 B2
Aberdeen Sampan Company 香港仔三艇公司 11 A2

Boats to Ap Lei Chau 往鴨洲街渡 12 A2

Boats to Floating Restaurants 往海鮮舫街渡 13 D3

Boats to Floating Restaurants 往海鮮舫街渡 14 A2

Boats to Sok Kwu Wan & Mo Tat Wan (Lamma) & Po Toi 往索罟灣、模達灣、蒲台島船 15 A2

Boats to Yung Shue Wan (Lamma) 往榕樹灣船隻 16 B2

Private Sampan 17 B2

Private Sampan 18 A2

where there are gardens and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Giant Panda Habitat, home to the two new arrivals, Ying Ying and Le Le, and their older cousins An An and Jia Jia. It is linked to the main section on the headland, where most of the attractions are found, by a scenic (and hair-raising) cable car. The headland section affords beautiful views of the South China Sea and at the rear entrance, where a giant escalator will bring you down to Tai Shue Wan and Shum Wan Rd, is the Middle Kingdom, a sort of Chinese cultural village with temples, pagodas and traditional street scenes.

SAMPAN TOURS Map p82

Aberdeen Promenade

Sampan tours can easily be arranged along Aberdeen Promenade, which runs south

and parallel to Aberdeen Praya Rd. You can have your choice of private operators, which generally mill around the eastern end of the promenade, or licensed operators registered with the HKTB, such as the [Aberdeen Sampan Company](#) (Map p82; ☎ 2873 0310; Aberdeen Praya Rd). The private sampans usually charge \$50 per person for a 30-minute ride (about \$100 to Sok Kwu Wan and \$120 to Yung Shue Wan on Lamma), though you should easily be able to bargain this down if there are several of you. Ferries to several spots on Lamma also operate from the promenade, as well as infrequent services to Stanley and Po Toi island (see the transport section for details, p275).

The promenade is easily accessed from Aberdeen bus terminus. To get to it just take the pedestrian subway under Aberdeen Praya Rd.

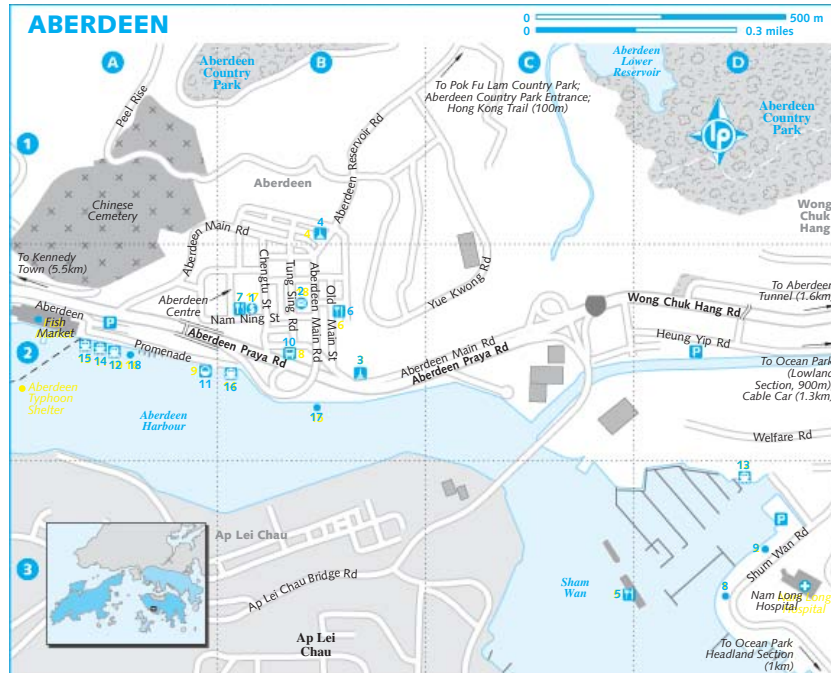
DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HISTORY

Hong Kong has a dreadful track record, which persists to this day, when it comes to preserving old buildings. Basically if a structure sits on a 'valuable' piece of land (ie virtually every square centimetre of the built-up areas) or gets in the way of progress (ie money), the wrecker's ball brings it down, and it lives on only in old photographs and the memories of a dwindling population.

It was business as usual, then, when the colonial government announced in 1982 that Murray House, Hong Kong's oldest colonial building, was going to have to make room for the new Bank of China Tower. But because Murray House had a Grade 1 classification, even the government couldn't just smash it to pieces as they had the old Hong Kong Club and the Central Post Office. Instead, the building would be dismantled and its more than 4000 pieces numbered and stored for 'safekeeping' and erection elsewhere. Time passed and when heritage societies demanded to know its whereabouts, the government admitted it had misplaced some of the pieces.

Scene and time change... It's the mid-1990s and the government has found the missing pieces stored in crates in Tai Tam. But there's a big problem. The limestone blocks and pillars had been wrapped in plastic sheeting and the numbers written or etched into their sides had spontaneously erased due to moisture building up on the soft stone. To its credit, the government rolled up its sleeves and spent 3½ years putting the colossal puzzle back together again. And when they'd finished in early 2001, six columns were left over that they didn't know what to do with.

As you approach Murray House, which now contains the Hong Kong Maritime Museum on the ground floor and restaurants on the 1st and 2nd floors, you'll see these idle Ionic columns standing rather forlornly off to the left along the waterfront promenade. Note, too, some of the numbers still visible on the building blocks to the right of the entrance.



AP LEI CHAU Map p82

Ap Lei Chau

On the southern side of the harbour is Ap Lei Chau (Duck's Tongue Island), one of the most densely populated places in the world. It used to be a centre for building junks, but now it's covered with housing estates, including a huge one called South Horizons. There's not much to see there, but a walk across the bridge to the island affords good views. From Aberdeen Promenade you can get a boat across to Ap Lei Chau (adult/child under 12 \$1.80/1).

TEMPLES Map p82

Aberdeen Main Rd

If you've got time to spare, a short walk through Aberdeen will bring you to a renovated **Tin Hau temple** (182 Aberdeen Main Rd; ☎ 8am-5pm). Built in 1851, it's a sleepy spot, but it remains an active house of worship. Close to the harbour is a **Hung Shing shrine** (nr Aberdeen Main Rd & Old Main St), a chaotic collection of altars and smoking, ovenlike incense pots. Both temples are a short walk from Aberdeen bus terminus.

Stanley

About 15km from Central as the crow flies, Stanley's (Map p85) attractive market, beaches, and good pubs and restaurants make it an appealing place to escape the concrete jungle. It had an indigenous population of about 2000 when the British took control of the territory in 1841, making it one of the largest settlements on the island at the time. A prison was built near the village in 1937 – just in time for the Japanese to intern the builders. Stanley Prison is a maximum security facility today. Hong Kong's contingent of British troops was housed in Stanley Fort at the southern end of the peninsula until 1995. It is now used by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA). There's a beach to the northeast of town that never gets as crowded as the one at Repulse Bay. The most important dragon-boat races are held at Stanley during the **Dragon Boat Festival** (Tuen Ng; p17) in early June.

STANLEY MARKET Map p85

Stanley Village Rd; ☎ 9am-6pm; 🚗 6, 6A, 6X or 260 No big bargains or big stings, just reasonably priced casual clothes (plenty of large sizes), bric-a-brac, toys and formulaic art, all

in a nicely confusing maze of alleys running down to Stanley Bay. It's best to go during the week; on the weekend the market is bursting at the seams with both tourists and locals alike.

MURRAY HOUSE Map p85

Stanley Bay; 🚗 6, 6A, 6X or 260

At the start of the Chung Hom Kok peninsula across the bay from Stanley Main St, the waterfront promenade lined with bars and restaurants, stands this three-storey colonnaded affair. Built in 1848 as officers' quarters, it took pride of place in Central, on the spot where the Bank of China Tower now stands, for almost 150 years until 1982. It was re-erected here and opened in 2001 after, well, a slight glitch (see boxed text, p83).

HONG KONG MARITIME MUSEUM

Map p85

☎ 2813 2322; www.hkmaritimemuseum.org; GF, Murray House; adult/concession \$20/10; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun; 🚗 6, 6A, 6X or 260

This small but interesting museum occupying the ground floor of Murray House consists of an ancient and a modern gallery charting the shipping history of Hong Kong and is well worth a visit if you've already come to see Murray House. The modern gallery includes some fun interactive displays where you can test your skills at morse code or even pilot a tanker through Hong Kong waters.

HONG KONG CORRECTIONAL SERVICES MUSEUM Map p85

☎ 2147 3199; www.csd.gov.hk/english/hkcsn/hkcsn.html; 45 Tung Tau Wan Rd; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun; 🚗 6, 6A, 6X or 260

With Stanley Prison so close by, it's only natural that there should be a museum devoted to the subject here. The museum, about 500m southeast of Stanley Village Rd, has nine galleries that trace the history of jails, prisons and other forms of incarceration in Hong Kong. The mock cells, gallows and flogging stands will convince most of the error of their ways.

OLD STANLEY POLICE STATION Map p85

88 Stanley Village Rd; 🚗 6, 6A, 6X or 260

The most interesting building in the village itself is this two-storey structure

built in 1859. It now contains a Wellcome supermarket.

ST STEPHEN'S BEACH & MILITARY CEMETERY Off Map p85

🚗 6A or 14

St Stephen's Beach, which has a café, showers and changing rooms, is south of the village. In summer you can hire windsurfing boards and kayaks from the water-sports centre (see p229). To reach the beach, walk south along Wong Ma Kok Rd. Turn west (ie right) when you get to a small road (Wong Ma Kok Path) leading down to a jetty.

At the end of the road, turn south and walk past the boathouse to the beach. Bus 14 or 6A will take you close to the intersection with the small road.

Well worth a look is **Stanley Military Cemetery** for armed forces personnel and their families. The oldest graves date back to 1843 and are an intriguing document of the colonial era. The earlier graves show just how much of a toll disease took on European settlers, while the number of graves from the early 1940s serves as a reminder of the many who died in the fight for Hong Kong and during subsequent internment at the

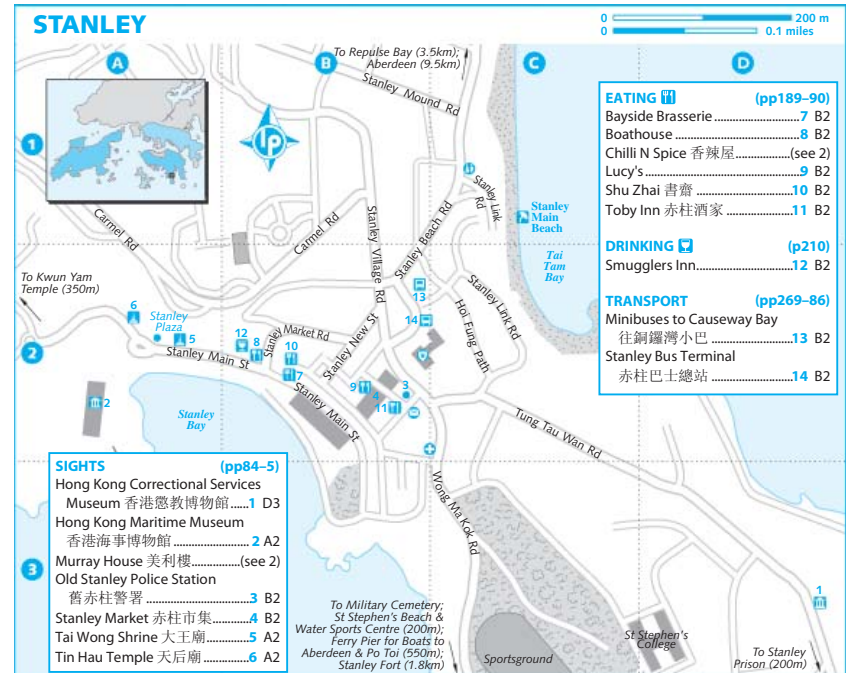
hands of occupying Japanese forces. The cemetery is just opposite the bus stop.

TEMPLES & SHRINES Map p85

🚗 6, 6A, 6X or 260

At the western end of Stanley Main St, past a tiny **Tai Wong shrine** and through the modern shopping complex called Stanley Plaza, is a **Tin Hau temple** (119 Stanley Main St; ☎ 7am-6pm), built in 1767 and said to be the oldest building in Hong Kong. It has undergone a complete renovation since then, however, and is now a concrete pile (though the interior is traditional). A sign explains that the tiger skin hanging on the wall came from an animal that 'weighed 240 pounds, was 73 inches long, and three feet high [and] shot by an Indian policeman, Mr Rur Singh, in front of Stanley Police Station in the year 1942'.

Behind the Tin Hau temple is huge Ma Hang Estate. If you go across the front of the temple and follow the road, through the barriers and up the hill, you'll reach **Kwun Yam Temple** (☎ 7am-6pm). The temple is on the left when you get to the roundabout at the top.



Shek O

Sometimes referred to as the 'last real village on Hong Kong Island', Shek O (Map pp54–5), has one of the best beaches on the island. Not as accessible as the beaches to the west (although it is only a 20-minute bus ride from Shaui Kei Wan), the beaches here are usually less crowded.

Shek O has all sorts of activities to keep you amused and out of trouble. **Shek O Beach** has a large expanse of sand, shady trees to the rear, showers, changing facilities and lockers for rent. It's a good spot for swimming with several platforms offshore within a netted swimming area. In the village itself there's **miniature golf** (\$13; ☎ 9am–6pm Apr–Sep, 9am–5.30pm Oct–Mar) and from **Dragon's Back**, the 280m-high ridge to the west of the village, there's both paragliding and abseiling. Walking is possible around Shek O Beach, though the terrain is steep and the underbrush quite thick in spots. You can also take advantage of several bicycle-rental shops (bicycles from \$15 a day), including **Tung Lok Barbecue Store** (☎ 2809 4692; ☎ Apr–Sep) in the centre of the village.

BIG WAVE BAY Map pp54–5

☎ 9 or 309 (Sun only)

This fine and often deserted beach is located 2km to the north of Shek O. To get to Big Wave Bay follow the road north out of town, travel past the 18-hole **Shek O Golf & Country Club** (☎ 2809 4458; Shek O Rd), then turn east at the roundabout and keep going until the road ends.

One of eight prehistoric rock carvings discovered in Hong Kong (see p19) is located on the headland above Big Wave Bay.

Repulse Bay

Repulse Bay (Map pp54–5) is home to some of Hong Kong's richest residents, and the hills around the beach are strewn with luxury apartment blocks. This includes the pink, blue and yellow wavy number with a giant square hole in the middle called the Repulse Bay. This design feature was apparently added on the advice of a feng shui expert.

The long beach with tawny sand at Repulse Bay – Chin Shui Wan (Shallow Water Bay) in Cantonese – is the most popular one on Hong Kong Island. Packed on the weekend and even

during the week in summer, it's a good place if you like people-watching. The beach has showers and changing rooms and shade trees at the road side, but the water is pretty murky. Lifeguards keep extended hours here: from 9am to 6pm daily from March to November (8am to 7pm on Saturday and Sunday from June to August).

Middle Bay and South Bay, about 10 and 30 minutes to the south respectively, have beaches that are usually much less crowded.

KWUN YAM SHRINE Map pp54–5

Repulse Bay Beach; ☎ 6, 6A, 6X or 260

Towards the southeast end of Repulse Bay Beach is an unusual shrine to Kwun Yam. The surrounding area has an amazing assembly of deities and figures – goldfish, rams, the money god and other southern Chinese icons, as well as statues of the goddess of mercy and Tin Hau. Most of the statues were funded by local personalities and businesspeople during the 1970s. In front of the shrine to the left as you face the sea is **Longevity Bridge**; crossing it is supposed to add three days to your life.

THE REPULSE BAY Map pp54–5

109 Repulse Bay Rd; ☎ 6, 6A, 6X or 260

The Repulse Bay, a copy of the wonderful old colonial Repulse Bay Hotel, built in 1922 and bulldozed 60 years later, contains a small shopping mall and several food outlets, including the Verandah Restaurant (p190).

Deep Water Bay

A quiet little inlet with a beach flanked by shade trees, Deep Water Bay (Map pp54–5) is located a few kilometres northwest of Repulse Bay; lifeguards keep the same schedule as those at Repulse Bay Beach and in winter – ie December to February – they are on duty daily from 8am to 5pm. There are a few decent places to eat and have a drink, and barbecue pits at the southern end of the beach. If you want a dip in the water, this spot is usually less crowded than Repulse Bay. Opposite the beach is the nine-hole **Deep Water Bay Golf Club** (see p224). Deep Water Bay Beach is a centre for wakeboarding (see p229).

KOWLOON

It says something about Kowloon (Map pp88–9) that one of the most stirring experiences you can have there is to turn your back on it, stand at the waters edge and look back towards Hong Kong Island's startling skyline. There's a sense that Central's busy but scruffier neighbour is forever gazing enviously across the water at it.

This is not to say you shouldn't spend time here. It is a compelling destination containing some of Hong Kong's best museums, sights, hotels and shopping. It is also where you start to leave behind sleek commercialism for a more absorbing and human-scale neighbourhood life of markets, temples, traditional shopping streets, crumbling tenement blocks.

The name 'Kowloon' is thought to have originated when the last emperor of the Song dynasty passed through the area during his flight from the Mongols in the late 13th century (p20). He is said to have counted eight peaks on the peninsula and concluded that there must therefore be eight dragons there. But the young emperor was reminded that with he himself present, there were actually nine dragons. Kowloon is thus derived from the Cantonese words *gáu*, meaning 'nine', and *lung*, meaning 'dragon'.

Kowloon proper, the area ceded 'in perpetuity' to Britain by the Convention of Peking in 1860, extends north from the waterfront as far as Boundary St in Mong Kok. It covers about 12 sq km, but land reclamation and encroachment into the New Territories – the so-called New Kowloon – over the past 150-odd years has more than quadrupled its size to almost 47 sq km.

Kowloon's most important area, Tsim Sha Tsui, has none of the slickness or sophistication of Hong Kong Island's Central, except within the confines of its top-end hotels. Tsimshy (as local expats call it) is a riot of commerce and tourism set against a backdrop of crumbling tenement blocks.

In general, Kowloon is unexciting architecturally. Height restrictions for buildings, due to the proximity of the old Kai Tak International Airport in southeastern Kowloon, gave it a much lower skyline than that of northern Hong Kong Island, though that's all changing – and fast. The waterfront Hong Kong Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui was a bold (and early) stab at turning Hong Kong into something more than a territory obsessed with wealth. The Peninsula Hotel is housed in one of Hong Kong's greatest colonial buildings and, at night, the promenade running east and northeast along Victoria Harbour from Star Ferry pier offers a technicolour backdrop of Central and Wan Chai. There are some green spaces as well, such as Kowloon Park.

TSIM SHA TSUI

Drinking & Nightlife p211; Eating p191; Shopping p166; Sleeping p257

Tsim Sha Tsui (Map p92; roughly pronounced 'jim-saa-jéui' and meaning 'Sharp Sandy Point') is Hong Kong's tourist ghetto. It is packed with hotels and inexpensive guest-houses, and the dining and drinking options are plentiful if not as glittering as the ones across the water.

It's also a shopping destination. Clothing and shoe shops, restaurants, camera and electronics stores, and hotels are somehow crammed into an area not much bigger than 1 sq km. Around Ashley, Hankow and Lock Rds is a warren of shops, restaurants and bars. It's a fun area to wander around, particularly in the evening. Nightlife areas include Knutsford Tce and, most recently, Minden Ave.

The hotel and shopping district of Tsim Sha Tsui ('Tsimshy' to locals) lies at the very tip of the Kowloon Peninsula to the south

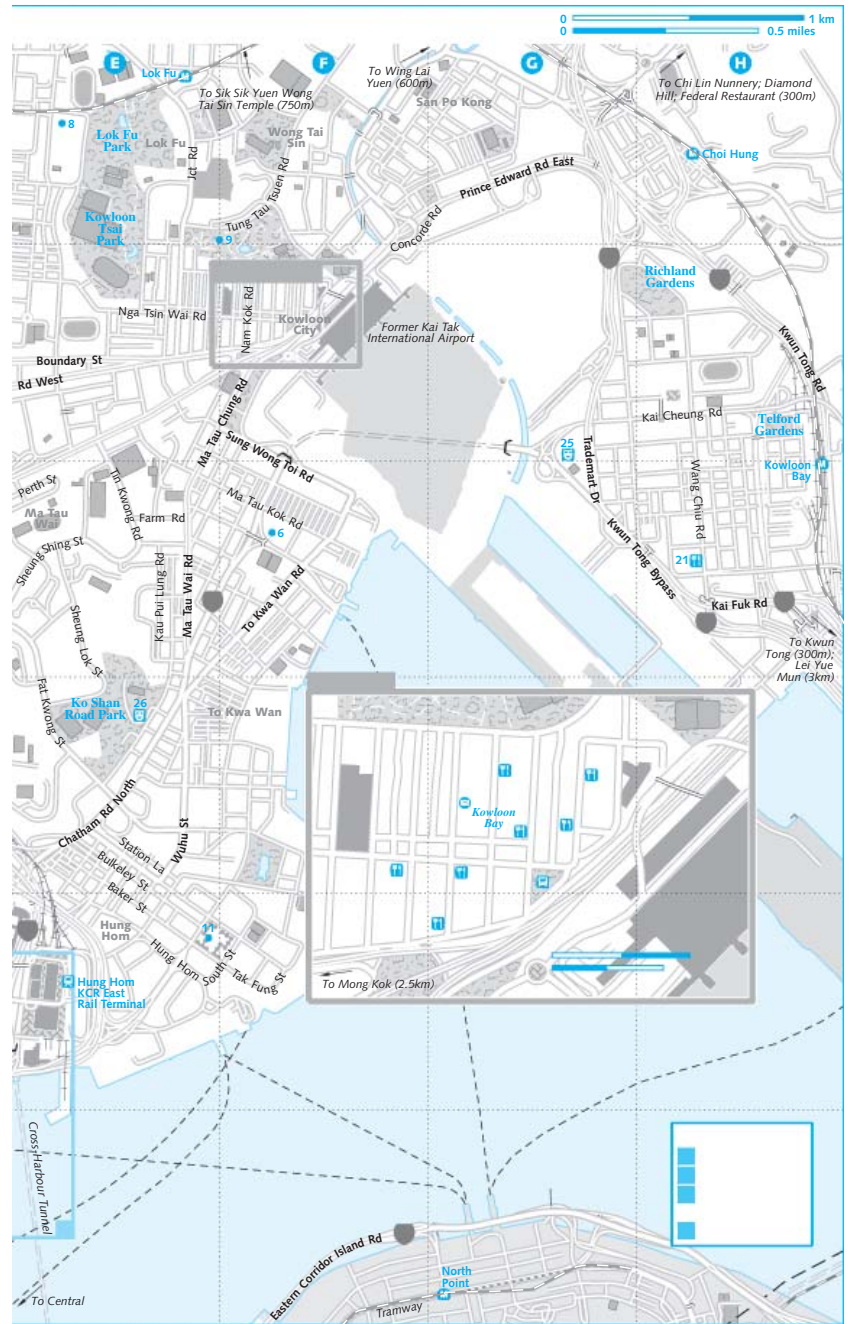
of Austin Rd. (The area between Austin and Jordan Rds is usually called Jordan by Hong Kong residents, but it can still be considered Tsim Sha Tsui here.) Chatham Rd South separates it from the hotels and shops of Tsim Sha Tsui East and the transport hub of Hung Hom. Tsim Sha Tsui's western and southern boundaries – Victoria Harbour – are lined with top-end hotels, shopping centres and cultural venues.

top picks

KOWLOON

- Star Ferry (p273)
- Avenue of the Stars evening lightshow (p95)
- Afternoon Tea at the Peninsula (p91)
- Tsim Sha Tsui East Promenade (p95)
- Hong Kong Museum of Art (p90)

KOWLOON



KOWLOON

INFORMATION

| | |
|--|------|
| Country & Marine Parks Authority 郊野公園及海岸公園管理局 | 1 B1 |
| HSBC 匯豐銀行 | 2 C1 |
| Post Office 郵局 | 3 C1 |
| Post Office 郵局 | 4 G4 |

SIGHTS (pp87-103)

| | |
|--|-------|
| Apliu Street Market 鴨寮街 | 5 B2 |
| Cattle Depot Artists Village 牛棚藝術村 | 6 F3 |
| City University of Hong Kong 香港城市大學 | 7 D1 |
| Hong Kong Baptist University (Shaw Campus) 香港浸會大學逸夫校園 | 8 E1 |
| Kowloon Walled City Park 九龍寨城公園 | 9 F1 |
| Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum 李鄭屋漢墓博物館 | 10 B1 |
| Wonderful World of Whampoa 黃埔新天地 | 11 E5 |

SHOPPING (pp166-70)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Festival Walk 又一城 | 12 D1 |
| Golden Computer Arcade 黃金電腦商場 | 13 B1 |
| Hong Kong Records 香港唱片 | (see 12) |
| New Capital Computer Plaza 新高登電腦廣場 | 14 C1 |
| Page One | (see 12) |

EATING (pp191-5)

| | |
|--|----------|
| Chong Fat Chiu Chow Restaurant 創發潮州飯店 | 15 G4 |
| Friendship Thai Food 友誼泰國菜館 | 16 G4 |
| Golden Orchid Thai 金蘭花泰國菜館 | 17 G4 |
| Hot Basil Thai Cuisine | 18 G4 |
| Islam Food 清真牛肉館 | 19 G5 |
| Ma's Noodle 麥天雲香麵世家 | 20 B3 |
| Mega Box | 21 H3 |
| Palm Court 棕櫚閣 | 22 D3 |
| Taste | (see 12) |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Thai Farm Restaurant 飛龍冰上樂園 | 23 F4 |
| Wong Chun Chun Thai Restaurant 黃珍珍泰國菜館 | 24 G4 |

ENTERTAINMENT (pp217-18)

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| AMC Festival Walk 又一城 AMC | (see 12) |
| HITEC Rotunda 國際展覽中心 | 25 G2 |
| Ko Shan Theatre 高山劇場 | 26 E4 |

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES (p229)

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Festival Walk Glacier 又一城歡天雪地 | (see 12) |
|----------------------------------|----------|

SLEEPING (p264)

| | |
|---|-------|
| Anne Black Guest House 女青柏韻露斯 | 27 D3 |
| Caritas Lodge 明愛賓館 | 28 D2 |
| Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association 香港青年旅舍協會 | 29 C1 |

TRANSPORT (pp269-86)

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Bus Stops 巴士站 | 30 G4 |
|---------------|-------|

HONG KONG MUSEUM OF ART

Map p92

☎ 7221 0116; www.lcsd.gov.hk/hkma; 10 Salisbury Rd; adult/concession \$10/5, admission free Wed;

🕒 10am-6pm Fri-Wed, to 8pm Sat; 🚢 Star Ferry

To the southeast of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, the Hong Kong Museum of Art has seven galleries spread over six floors, exhibiting Chinese antiquities, Chinese fine art, historical pictures and contemporary Hong Kong art, and hosting temporary international exhibitions.

The seventh gallery houses the Xubaizhi collection of painting and calligraphy.

Highlights include some exquisite ceramics in the **Chinese Antiques Gallery**, the **Historical Pictures Gallery**, with its 18th- and 19th-century Western-style paintings of Macau, Hong Kong and Guangzhou, and the **Gallery of Chinese Fine Art**, which combines contemporary Chinese art and 20th-century collections of painting and calligraphy from Guangdong. Audio guides are available for \$10, and there are free English-language tours at 11am and 4pm Sunday to Wednesday and Friday, and at 3pm, 4pm and 5pm on Saturday.

When your feet get tired, take a seat in the hallway and enjoy the harbour views. Or head for the **Museum Café**. The **Museum Bookshop** sells a wide range of books, prints and cards. **Salisbury Gardens**, which leads to the museum entrance, is lined with **sculptures** by contemporary Hong Kong sculptors. To

reach the museum from the Tsim Sha Tsui MTR station, take exit E and walk south down Nathan Rd.

FORMER KCR CLOCK TOWER Map p92

Tsim Sha Tsui Public Pier; 🚢 Star Ferry

Immediately east of Star Ferry pier, this 44m-high clock tower (1915) was once part of the southern terminus of the Kowloon-Canton Railway (KCR). Operations moved to the modern train station at Hung Hom to the northeast in late 1975. The station was demolished in 1978, though you can see a scale model of what it looked like if you visit the **Hong Kong Railway Museum** (p120) in Tai Po in the New Territories.

HONG KONG CULTURAL CENTRE

Map p92

☎ 2734 2009; www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/HKCC; 10 Salisbury Rd; 🕒 9am-11pm; 🚢 Star Ferry

The odd, wave-like (and virtually windowless) building clad in pink ceramic tiles behind the clock tower and opposite Star House is the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, one of Hong Kong's most distinctive – if not loved – landmarks. It opened in 1989 and was compared with everything from a cheaply tiled public toilet to a road-side petrol station.

Its controversial design notwithstanding, the centre is a world-class venue, with a

2085-seat concert hall, a Grand Theatre that seats 1750, a studio theatre for up to 535, rehearsal studios and an impressive foyer. The concert hall even has a Rieger Orgelbau pipe organ (with 8000 pipes and 93 stops), one of the largest in the world. On the building's south side is the beginning of a viewing platform from where you can admire Victoria Harbour and the skyline of Central and gain access to the **Tsim Sha Tsui East Promenade** and **Avenue of the Stars** (p95).

NATHAN ROAD Map p92

MTR Tsim Sha Tsui

Kowloon's main thoroughfare was named after Sir Matthew Nathan, governor of Hong Kong from 1904 to 1907. As Kowloon was very sparsely populated at the time and such a wide boulevard thought unnecessarily extravagant, it was dubbed 'Nathan's Folly'. Banyans line the road at the northern end near Austin Rd, but the trees that once lined the rest of the street and can be seen in not-so-old photographs were removed in 1976 when the MTR's first line was being built.

Though lacking any tourist sights as such, the lower end of this boulevard is a sight in itself. This 'Golden Mile' is an iconic Hong Kong scene, but not for the opulence suggested by the name. In fact it is a chaotic scrum of tenement blocks stacked with seedy guesthouses awkwardly rubbing shoulders with top-end hotels; touts selling 'copy' watches; tailors plying their trade on street corners; and pavements chock-a-block with consumers scurrying from one shop to another. Anyone who chooses to stay (see p257) at Chungking Mansions, Mirador Mansion or Golden Crown Guest House will have this frenetic scene at their very doorstep.

TRANSPORT – TSIM SHA TSUI

MTR Tsim Sha Tsui station (Map p92) on the Tsuen Wan line empties onto both sides of Nathan Rd. There's also a long tunnel linking it with Tsim Sha Tsui East KCR station (although a couple of travelers make it less of a schlep).

KCR East Tsim Sha Tsui station (Map p94) is the terminus of the KCR East Rail.

Star Ferry Pier (Map p92) at western end of Salisbury Rd.

Macau Ferries China ferry terminal (Map p92) on Canton Rd.

PENINSULA HONG KONG Map p92

☎ 2920 2888; www.peninsula.com; cnr Salisbury & Nathan Rds; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui

More than a Hong Kong landmark, the Peninsula, in the throne-like building opposite the Hong Kong Space Museum, is one of the world's great hotels (p257). Though it was being called 'the finest hotel east of Suez' just a few years after opening in 1928, the Peninsula was in fact one of several prestigious hostelries across Asia where everybody who was anybody stayed, lining up with (but not behind) the likes of the Raffles in Singapore, the Peace (then the Cathay) in Shanghai and the Strand in Rangoon (now Yangon).

Taking **afternoon tea** (\$240; 🕒 2-7pm) at the Peninsula is one of the best experiences in town – dress neatly and be prepared to queue for a table.

KOWLOON PARK Map p92

☎ 2724 3344; www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/ls_park.php; 22 Austin Rd; 🕒 5am-midnight; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui & Jordan

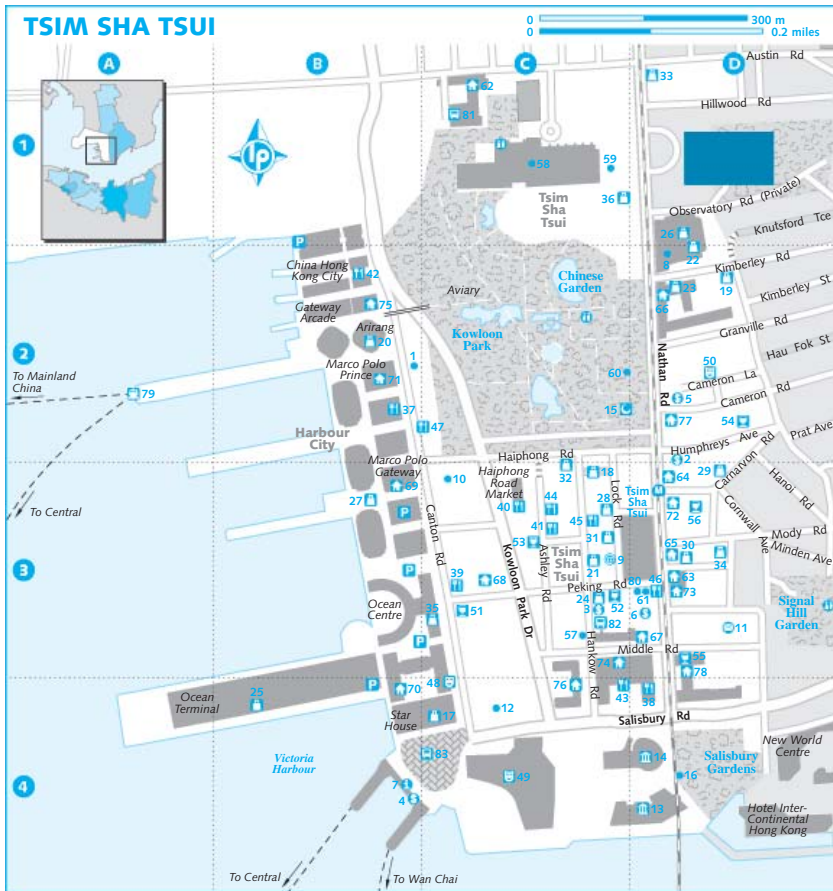
Build on the site of a barracks for Indian soldiers in the colonial army, Kowloon Park is an oasis of greenery and a refreshing escape from the hustle and bustle of Tsim Sha Tsui. Pathways and walls crisscross the grass, birds hop around in cages, and towers and ancient banyan trees dot the landscape.

There's an **aviary** (🕒 6.30am-6.45pm Mar-Oct, 6.30am-5.45pm Nov-Feb) and a **Chinese Garden** and **Sculpture Walk**, featuring works by local artists. Kung Fu Corner, a display of traditional Chinese martial arts, takes place here from 2.30pm to 4.30pm on Sunday. The renovated **Kowloon Park Swimming Complex** (☎ 2724 3577; adult/concession \$19/9; 🕒 outdoor 6.30am-10pm with 1hr close at noon & 5pm Apr-Oct, indoor 6.30am-9.30pm with 1hr close at noon & 5pm Nov-Mar) is complete with four pools and waterfalls. Visit on a weekday; on weekends there are so many bathers it's difficult to find the water.

HONG KONG SPACE MUSEUM & THEATRE Map p92

☎ 2721 0226; www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/Space/index.htm; 10 Salisbury Rd; adult/concession \$10/5, admission free Wed; 🕒 1-9pm Mon & Wed-Fri, 10am-9pm Sat, Sun & public holidays; 🚢 Star Ferry

Just east of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, this golf-ball-shaped building consists of the Hall of Space Science, the Hall of Astronomy



and the large Space Theatre, one of the largest planetariums in the world. Exhibits include a lump of moon rock, rocket-ship models and NASA's 1962 *Mercury* space capsule.

It's not a compelling museum (the Science Museum has a lot more to offer) but if it's raining, a standby option is the Space Theatre, which screens 'sky shows' and Omnimax films on a massive screen; lasting about 40 minutes, they are mostly in Cantonese, but translations by headphones are available. The first show is at 1.30pm weekdays (12.20pm Saturday, 11.10am Sunday), the last at 8.30pm. Tickets are \$32/16 for adults/concession (\$24/12 in the front stalls); children under three are not allowed entry. Advance bookings can be made by phone up to one hour before show time.

KOWLOON MOSQUE & ISLAMIC CENTRE Map p92

☎ 2724 0095; 105 Nathan Rd; ☎ 5am-10pm; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui

North of the intersection of Nathan and Haiphong Rds, the Kowloon Mosque & Islamic Centre is the largest Islamic house of worship in Hong Kong. The present building, with its dome and carved marble, was completed in 1984 to serve the territory's 70,000-odd Muslims, more than half of whom are Chinese, and can accommodate 2000 worshippers. It occupies the site of a mosque built in 1896 for Muslim Indian troops.

Muslims are welcome to attend services but non-Muslims should ask permission to enter. Do remember to remove your footwear.

TSIM SHA TSUI

INFORMATION

- 1010 CSL.....1 B2
- Citibank 花旗銀行.....2 D2
- Hang Seng Bank 恆生銀行.....3 C3
- Hong Kong Dolphinwatch
香港海豚觀察.....(see 17)
- HSBC 匯豐銀行.....4 B4
- HSBC 匯豐銀行.....5 D2
- HSBC 匯豐銀行.....6 D3
- Kowloon HKTB Centre
旅客諮詢及服務中心.....7 B4
- Pacific Coffee Company.....(see 26)
- PCCW i.Shop.....8 D2
- Peninsula Academy.....(see 74)
- Shadowman Cyber Cafe.....9 C3
- Silvercord Towers & Shopping Centre.....10 C3
- Sincerity Travel/Hong Kong Student Travel 永安旅遊.....(see 17)
- Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office
- 尖沙咀郵局.....11 D3
- Watertours.....(see 17)
- Wing Hoi Money Exchange.....(see 72)

SIGHTS (pp87-94)

- Former Marine Police Headquarters
前水警總部.....12 C4
- Hong Kong Museum of Art
香港藝術館.....13 D4
- Hong Kong Space Museum & Theatre
香港太空館.....14 D4
- Kowloon Mosque & Islamic Centre
九龍清真寺.....15 C2
- Sculptures 雕塑.....16 D4

SHOPPING (pp166-9)

- Alan Chan Creations.....(see 74)
- Chinese Arts & Crafts
中藝(香港)有限公司.....17 C3
- Curio Alley.....18 C4
- David Chan Photo Shop
陳烘相機.....19 D2
- Fook Ming Tong Tea Shop
福茗堂.....20 B2
- Giga Sports.....(see 25)
- HMV.....21 C3
- I.T.....22 D2
- King Fook 景福珠寶.....23 D2
- King Sing Jewellery
景昇珠寶公司.....(see 17)
- KS Ahluwalia & Sons.....24 C3
- Lane Crawford 連卡佛.....25 B4
- Miramar Shopping Centre
美麗華商場.....26 D1
- Ocean Optical
海洋眼鏡有限公司.....27 B3
- Ocean Sky Divers 海天潛水.....28 C3
- Om International.....29 D3
- Page One.....(see 35)
- Premier Jewellery
愛寶珠寶有限公司.....30 D3

OCEAN TERMINAL Map p92

☎ 2118 8668; www.harbourcity.com.hk; Salisbury Rd; ☎ 11.30am-9pm; ⚡ Star Ferry
To the north of the clock tower is **Star House** (3 Salisbury Rd), a frayed-looking retail and

- Sam's Tailor.....(see 72)
- Star Computer City.....(see 17)
- Swindon Books 辰街圖書公司.....31 C3
- Tom Lee Music Company.....(see 50)
- Travellers' Home.....32 C3
- Travelmax.....(see 25)
- Tse Sui Luen 謝瑞麟珠寶.....33 D1
- Up Date Mall.....34 D3
- www.izzue.com.....35 C3
- Yue Hwa Chinese Products Emporium
裕華國貨.....36 C1

EATING (pp191-3)

- Arirang 阿里朗.....(see 25)
- Chungking Mansions
重慶大廈.....(see 63)
- Citysuper.....37 B2
- Eastern Palace Chiu Chow Restaurant
東鑾閣.....(see 70)
- Felix.....38 D4
- Golden Bull 金牛苑.....(see 25)
- Hutong 胡同.....39 C3
- Jimmy's Kitchen.....40 C3
- Kyozaa 京世居酒屋.....41 C3
- Mak's Noodle 麥尖雲吞麵世家.....42 B2
- Spring Moon 嘉麟樓.....43 C4
- Weinstube.....44 C3
- Wellcome 惠康.....45 C3
- Wu Kong Shanghai Restaurant
滬江大飯店.....46 D3
- Yummy Vietnamese Restaurant
味佳居.....47 C2

ENTERTAINMENT (pp222-31)

- Grand Ocean Cinema.....48 C4
- Hari's 夏利吧.....(see 65)
- Hong Kong Cultural Centre
香港文化中心.....49 C4
- Tom Lee Music Company Centre.....50 D2

DRINKING (p211)

- Aqua Spirit.....51 C3
- Bar.....(see 38)
- Delaney's.....52 C3
- Mes Amis.....53 C3
- New Wally Matt Lounge.....54 D2
- Sky Lounge.....55 D3
- Tony's Bar.....56 D3

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES (pp222-31)

- Hong Kong Jockey Club
香港賽馬會.....57 C3
- Kowloon Park Sports Centre
九龍公園體育館.....58 C1
- Kowloon Park Swimming Complex
九龍公園游泳池.....59 C1
- Kung Fu Corner 功夫閣.....(see 60)
- Sculpture Walk 雕塑徑.....60 C2
- Wing Chun Yip Man Martial Arts
Athletic Association
葉問國術總會.....61 D3

SLEEPING (pp257-60)

- BP International Hotel
龍堡國際酒店.....62 C1
- Chungking Mansions 重慶招待所.....(see 63)
- Chungking Mansions 重慶大廈.....63 D3
- Cosmic Guest House 宇宙賓館.....(see 72)
- First-Class Guest House.....(see 72)
- Garden Guest House.....(see 63)
- Garden Hotel 花園旅館.....(see 72)
- Golden Crown Court.....64 D3
- Holiday Inn Golden Mile
香港金城假日酒店.....65 D3
- Hong Kong Hotels Association
香港酒店業協會.....(see 10)
- Hotel Miramar Hong Kong
美麗華酒店.....66 D2
- Hung Kiu Guest House
虹橋旅館.....(see 72)
- Kowloon Hotel Hong Kong
九龍酒店.....67 D3
- Kyoto Guest House 京都旅館.....(see 63)
- Langham Hotel Hong Kong
香港朗廷酒店.....68 C3
- Man Hing Lung Hotel.....(see 72)
- Marco Polo Gateway
馬可孛羅港威酒店.....69 B3
- Marco Polo Hongkong Hotel
香港馬可孛羅酒店.....70 B4
- Marco Polo Prince
馬可孛羅太子酒店.....71 B2
- Mei Lam Guesthouse
美麗都賓館.....(see 72)
- Mirador Mansion 美麗都大廈.....72 D3
- New Shanghai Guest House
新上海賓館.....(see 63)
- Park Guest House 百樂賓館.....(see 63)
- Peking Guest House 北京賓館.....73 D3
- Peninsula Hong Kong
香港半島酒店.....74 C3
- Royal Pacific Hotel & Towers
皇家太平洋酒店.....75 B2
- Salisbury 香港基督教青年會.....76 C4
- Sealand House 海怡賓館.....77 D2
- Sheraton Hong Kong Hotel & Towers
香港喜來登酒店.....78 D3
- Tom's Guest House.....(see 63)
- Traveller Services.....(see 26)
- Travellers Hostel.....(see 63)
- Welcome Guest House.....(see 63)
- Wonderful Inn 金冠賓館.....(see 72)
- Yan Yan Guest House
欣欣賓館.....(see 63)

TRANSPORT (pp269-86)

- China Ferry Terminal 中港碼頭.....79 A2
- China Travel Service.....80 D3
- Cross-Border Coach Terminus (Buses to China) 跨境巴士總站.....81 C1
- Eternal East Cross Border Coach
永東直巴.....82 C3
- Star Ferry Bus Terminal
天星小輪巴士總站.....83 C4

along Canton Rd and offers priceless views of Tsim Sha Tsui's western waterfront.

The stunning blue-and-white colonial structure on the hill above where Canton and Salisbury Rds meet is the former **Marine Police Headquarters**, built in 1884. Following a lengthy redevelopment of the site, new shops, cafés and restaurants, together with a luxury hotel, should be open on the site by the time you read this.

TSIM SHA TSUI EAST & HUNG HOM

Drinking & Nightlife p211; Eating p193; Sleeping p260

The large triangular chunk of land east and northeast of Tsim Sha Tsui proper (Map p94), built entirely on reclaimed land, is a cluster of shopping centres, hotels and theatres. There

are none of the old, crumbling buildings of 'real' Tsim Sha Tsui here – and like most reclaimed areas, it has that soulless, artificial feel that will take decades to remove. But two of Hong Kong's most important museums are here, and it offers an excellent vantage point from which to admire the harbour and the Hong Kong Island skyline.

Among the features of Hung Hom, the contiguous district to the northeast, are the massive KCR East Rail station, on Wan Rd; the 12,500-seat **Hong Kong Coliseum** (☎ 2355 7234; 9 Cheong Wan Rd), which hosts concerts and sporting events; the **Hong Kong Polytechnic University** (☎ 2766 5100; Hong Chong Rd), opposite the station; and one of the strangest shopping venues in the territory, the **Wonderful World of Whampoa** (Map pp88–9; ☎ 2128 7710; www.whampoa.com; 18 Tak Fung St; ☎ 10am–10pm), a full-scale concrete model of a luxury cruise liner. While presumably not

very seaworthy, the 'ship' – 100m long and four decks tall – is impressive and works very well for what it was intended to be: a shopping centre with retail outlets, restaurants, a cinema, and a playground on the top deck.

Tsim Sha Tsui East is defined by Chatham Rd South to the west and Salisbury Rd to the south. The limit to the east is Hong Chong Rd, backed by the Hong Kong Coliseum and Hung Hom train station. To the north it ends at Cheong Wan Rd.

Hung Hom is further to the north and northeast and divided by the Hung Hom Bypass into two parts: the station and coliseum on the west side and residential Hung Hom to the east.

TSIM SHA TSUI EAST PROMENADE

Map p94

★ Star Ferry

One of the finest city skylines in the world has to be that of Hong Kong Island, and the promenade here is one of the best ways to get an uninterrupted view. It's a lovely place to stroll during the day but comes into its own at night, during the nightly Symphony of the Stars, a spectacular sound-and-light show involving 20 buildings on the Hong Kong Island skyline from 8pm to 8.20pm.

Along the first part of the promenade is the **Avenue of the Stars**, which pays homage to the Hong Kong film industry and its stars, with handprints, sculptures and information

TRANSPORT – TSIM SHA TSUI EAST & HUNG HOM

MTR Take the Tsuen Wan line to Tsim Sha Tsui station (Map p92).

KCR East Tsim Sha Tsui and Hung Hom stations (Map p94) are on the KCR East Rail.

Ferry Star Ferries run from Central and Wan Chai to the Hung Hom ferry pier (Map p94).

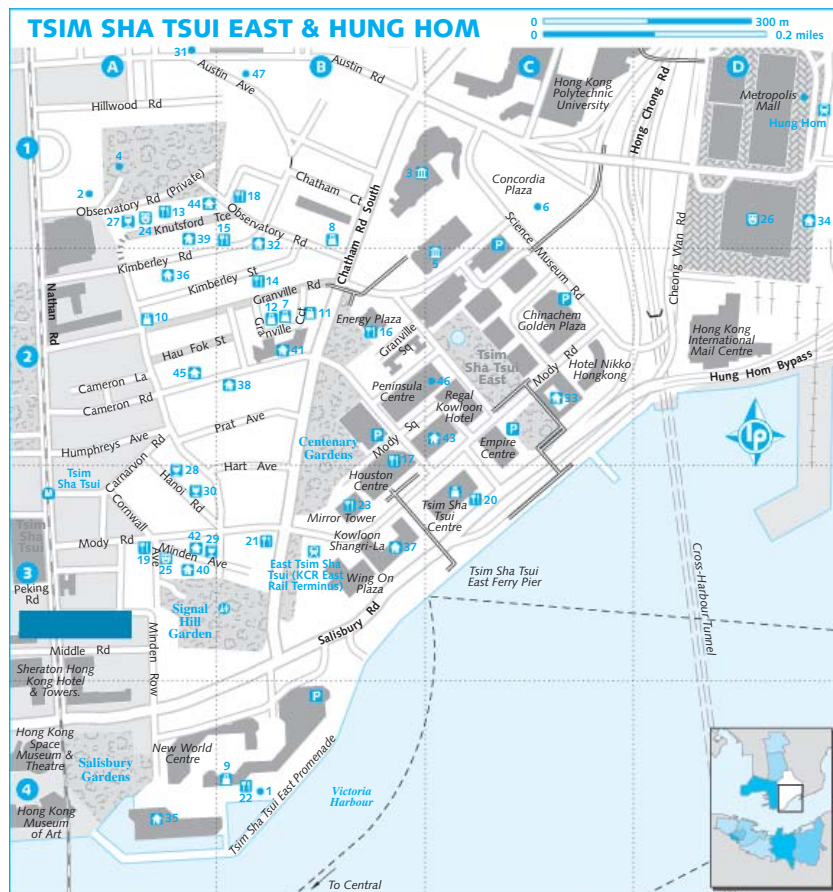
boards, a brave but ultimately lacklustre effort to celebrate Hong Kong's film and TV industry.

The promenade officially starts at the New World Centre shopping centre and runs parallel to Salisbury Rd almost to the Hong Kong Coliseum and Hung Hom train station, but you can walk along the water all the way from Star Ferry pier in order to gain access to it. It gets especially crowded during the Chinese New Year fireworks displays in late January/early February and in June during the **Dragon Boat Festival** (p17).

HONG KONG MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Map p94

☎ 2724 9042; www.hk.history.museum; 100 Chatham Rd South; adult/concession \$10/5, admission free Wed; ☎ 10am–6pm Mon & Wed–Sat, 10am–7pm Sun & public holidays; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui (exit B2)



TSIM SHA TSUI EAST & HUNG HOM

SIGHTS

- (pp94–6)
- Avenue of the Stars 星光大道.....1 B4
- Hong Kong Antiquities & Monuments Office 香港古物古蹟辦事處.....2 A1
- Hong Kong Museum of History 香港歷史博物館.....3 B1
- Hong Kong Observatory 香港天文台.....4 A1
- Hong Kong Science Museum 香港科學館.....5 C2
- New East Ocean Centre.....6 C1

SHOPPING

- (pp166–9)
- Beatniks.....7 B2
- Beverly Commercial Centre 百利商業中心.....8 B1
- Chinese Carpet Centre 珍藝行.....9 B4
- Chinese Carpet Centre 珍藝行... (see 17)
- Granville Rd 加連威老道.....10 A2
- Lids.....11 B2
- Rise Commercial Centre 利時商業大廈.....12 B2
- SPY..... (see 12)

EATING

- (pp191–4)
- A Touch of Spice.....13 A1
- Chang Won Korean Restaurant.....14 B2

- Fook Lam Moon 福臨門.....15 B1
- Gomitori 五味島居酒屋.....16 B2
- Good Satay 好時沙嗲.....17 B2
- Indonesian Restaurant 1968 印尼餐廳 1968.....18 B1
- Koh-i-Noor 寶軒印度餐廳.....19 A3
- Nadaman 滷萬日本料理..... (see 37)
- Nobu..... (see 35)
- Red Stone Bar & Grill.....20 C3
- Sabatini..... (see 43)
- Spring Deer 鹿鳴春.....21 B3
- Tonggas Cooking Centre.....22 B4
- Woodlands.....23 B3

ENTERTAINMENT

- (p216)
- Bahama Mama's.....24 A1
- Cloudnine.....25 A3
- Hong Kong Coliseum 紅磡體育館.....26 D1

DRINKING

- (pp211–12)
- Balalaika.....27 A1
- Biergarten.....28 A3
- Chillax.....29 A3
- Courtney's..... (see 40)
- La Tasca.....30 A3

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

- (p230)
- Kowloon Cricket Club 九龍木球會.....31 A1

SLEEPING

- (pp260–2)
- Empire Kowloon 九龍皇悅酒店.....32 B1
- Grand Stanford Inter-Continental 海景嘉福酒店.....33 C2
- Harbour Plaza Metropolis.....34 D1
- Hotel Inter-Continental Hong Kong 香港洲際酒店.....35 A4
- Kimberley Hotel 君怡酒店.....36 A2
- Kowloon Shangri-La 九龍香格里拉大酒店.....37 B3
- Lee Garden Guest House 利園賓館.....38 B2
- Luxe Manor.....39 A1
- Minden 棉登酒店.....40 A3
- Park Hotel 百樂酒店.....41 B2
- Pinnacle Apartment 豪居.....42 A3
- Royal Garden Hotel 帝苑酒店.....43 C2
- Stanford Hillview Hotel 仕德福山景酒店.....44 A1
- Star Guest House 星華賓館.....45 A2

TRANSPORT

- (pp269–86)
- Avis.....46 C2
- Phoenix Services Agency 峰寧(香港)旅遊社有限公司.....47 B1

For a whistlestop overview of the territory's archaeology, natural history, ethnography and local history, this museum is well worth a visit, not only to learn more about the subject but to understand how Hong Kong presents its history to itself and the world.

The Hong Kong Story takes visitors on a fascinating walk through the territory's past via eight galleries, starting with the natural environment and prehistoric Hong Kong – about 6000 years ago, give or take a lunar year – and ending with the territory's return to China in 1997. Along the way you'll encounter replicas of village dwellings; traditional Chinese costumes and beds; a re-creation of an entire arcaded street in Central from 1881, including an old Chinese medicine shop; a tram from 1913; and film footage of WWII, including recent interviews with Chinese and foreigners taken prisoner by the Japanese.

Free guided tours of the museum are available in English at 10.30am and 2.30pm on Saturday and Sunday.

HONG KONG SCIENCE MUSEUM

Map p94

☎ 2732 3232; www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/Science; 2 Science Museum Rd; adult/concession \$25/12.50, admission free Wed; 🕒 1-9pm Mon-Wed & Fri, 10am-9pm Sat, Sun & public holidays; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui (exit B2)

Illustrating the fundamental workings of technology, such as computers and telecommunications, and practical demonstrations of the laws of energy, physics and chemistry, the Hong Kong Science Museum is a great hands-on experience capable of entertaining adults as well as children. There are more than 500 displays, although some of them are showing their age.

HONG KONG OBSERVATORY

Map p94
☎ 2926 8200; www.hko.gov.hk; 134A Nathan Rd; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui & Jordan

This historic monument, built in 1883, is sadly not open to the public. It continues to monitor Hong Kong's weather and sends up those frightening signals when a typhoon is heading for the territory (see boxed text, p288).

YAU MA TEI

Eating p194; Shopping p169; Sleeping p262

Immediately to the north of Tsim Sha Tsui is Yau Ma Tei (Map p97), pronounced 'yá-u-mà-dá-y' and meaning 'Place of Sesame Plants'.

TRANSPORT – YAU MA TEI

MTR Yau Ma Tei MTR station is on the Tsuen Wan and Kwun Tong lines, and Kowloon MTR on the Tung Chung and Airport Express lines.

Bus Buses 2, 6, 6A and 9 run up Nathan Rd (Map p92).

Today the only plants you'll find in this heavily urbanised neighbourhood are in the window boxes of *tá-wng-lá-u*, the crumbling six-storey tenements that don't have lifts and more often than not have illegal huts on the roof. The narrow streets full of shops and tenement buildings in Yau Ma Tei are much the same as those further south and north in Tsim Sha Tsui and Mong Kok, making this district practically indistinguishable from its neighbours. Yau Ma Tei starts at Jordan Rd and reaches north to somewhere between Waterloo Rd and Argyle St. King's Park and Gascoigne Rd are its borders to the east. To the west it reaches Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter in Victoria Harbour, the West Kowloon reclamation site, and the Kowloon station of the Tung Chung MTR and Airport Express lines.

Yau Ma Tei's narrow byways are good places to check out Hong Kong's more traditional urban society. There are many interesting walks to take along the streets running east to west between Kansu St and Jordan Rd (Map p97), including **Nanking St** (mahjong shops and parlours), **Ning Po St** (paper kites and votives, such as houses, mobile phones and hell money, to burn for the dead) and **Saigon St** (herbalist shops, old-style tailors, pawnshops). On **Shanghai St** you'll find Chinese bridal and trousseau shops. See p99 for a self-guided walk of this area.

TEMPLE STREET NIGHT MARKET

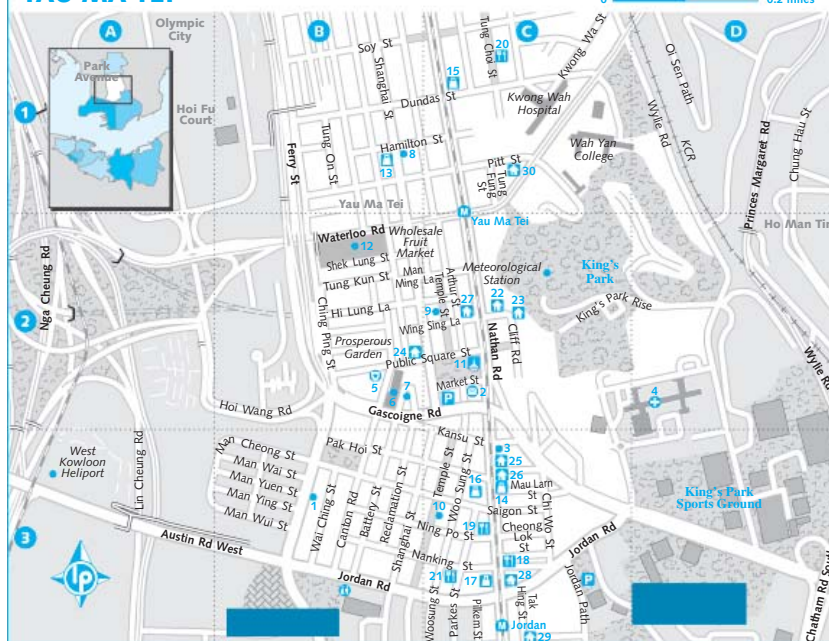
Map p97

🕒 4-11pm; MTR Yau Ma Tei (exit C)

The liveliest night market in Hong Kong, Temple St extends from Man Ming Lane in the north to Nanking St in the south and is cut in two by the Tin Hau temple complex. While you may find better bargains further north in New Kowloon, and certainly over the border in Shenzhen, it is still a good place to go for the bustling atmosphere and the smells and tastes on offer from the *dai-pàai-dawng* (open-air street stall) food.

People shop here for cheap clothes, watches, pirated CDs, fake labels, footwear,

YAU MA TEI



YAU MA TEI

INFORMATION

- International Women's League 國際婦女會1 B3
- Kowloon Central Post Office 九龍中央郵局2 C2
- Map Publication Centre 地圖銷售處3 C3
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital 伊利沙伯醫院4 D2
- Yau Ma Tei Police Station 油麻地警署5 B2

SIGHTS

- Jade Market 玉器市場6 B2
- Jade Market 玉器市場7 B2
- Shanghai Street Artspace 上海街視藝空間8 B1

TEMPLE STREET NIGHT MARKET

- 廟街夜市9 C2
- 廟街夜市10 C3
- Tin Hau Temple 天后廟11 C2
- Wholesale Fruit Market 果欄12 B2

SHOPPING

- Chamonix Alpine Equipment 沙木尼登山用品13 B1
- Chinese Arts & Crafts 中藝14 C3
- Trendy Zone 潮流特區15 C1
- Wing On 永安16 C3
- Yue Hwa Chinese Products 裕華國貨17 C3

EATING

- Bali Restaurant 峇里餐廳18 C3
- Miu Gute Cheong Vegetarian Restaurant 妙吉祥素食館19 C3
- Tai Pak 西門町台灣麵食20 C1
- Tsui Wah 翠華餐廳21 C3

SLEEPING

- Booth Lodge 卜維康賓館22 C2
- Caritas Bianchi Lodge 明愛白英奇賓館23 C2
- Dorsett Seaview Hotel 帝豪海景酒店24 B2
- Eaton Hotel 逸東酒店25 C3
- Hakka's Guest House 嘉應賓館(see 28)
- Nathan Hotel 彌敦酒店26 C3
- New Kings Hotel 新高雅酒店27 C2
- New Lucky House 華豐大廈28 C3
- Ocean Guest House 宏洋賓館... (see 28)
- Rent-a-Room Hong Kong 訂房通29 C3
- YMCA International House 青年會國際賓館30 C1

cookware and everyday items. Any marked prices should be considered mere suggestions – this is definitely a place to bargain.

You'll also find a surfeit of fortune-tellers, herbalists and, occasionally, some free, open-air Cantonese opera performances.

For street food, head for **Woo Sung St**, running parallel to the east, or to the section of Temple St north of the temple. You can

get anything from a simple bowl of noodles to a full meal. There are also a few seafood and hotpot restaurants in the area.

The market officially opens in the afternoon, but most hawkers set up at about 6pm and start shutting up around 11pm. The market is at its best from about 7pm to 10pm, when it's clogged with stalls and people. If you want to carry on, visit the

colourful **wholesale fruit market** (cnr Shek Lung & Reclamation Sts; ☞ midnight-dawn), which is always a hive of activity.

To reach Temple St market, take exit C2 from the Jordan MTR station and walk along Bowring St or exit C from the Yau Ma Tei MTR station and follow Man Ming Lane.

JADE MARKET Map p97

Battery St; ☞ 10am-4pm; MTR Yau Ma Tei (exit C) The Jade Market, near the Gascoigne Rd overpass just west of Nathan Rd and split into two parts by the loop formed by Battery St, has some 400 stalls selling all varieties and grades of jade from inside two covered markets. Unless you really know your nephrite from your jadeite, it's probably not wise to buy any expensive pieces here, but there are plenty of cheap and cheerful trinkets on offer as well.

You can reach the market easily on foot from either the Jordan (exit A) or Yau Ma Tei (exit C) MTR stations. Bus 9 from the Star Ferry bus station will drop you off at the Kowloon Central Post Office at 405 Nathan Rd, which is just around the corner from the market.

TIN HAU TEMPLE Map p97

☎ 2332 9240; cnr Public Square St & Nathan Rd; ☞ 8am-6pm; MTR Yau Ma Tei (exit C)

A couple of blocks northeast of the Jade Market, this temple is dedicated to Tin Hau, the goddess of seafarers. The temple complex also houses an altar dedicated to Shing Wong, the god of the city, and to To Tei, the earth god. You'll find a row of fortune-tellers through the last doorway on the right from the main entrance facing Public Square St; signs indicate which ones speak English. An incense spiral that lasts 10 days will set you back a mere \$130.

The **Yau Ma Tei Police Station** (Map p97; 627 Canton Rd), a short distance to the east along Public Square St, was built in 1922 and is a listed building.

MONG KOK

Eating p194; Sleeping p263

Mong Kok (Map p98; Prosperous Point) is one of Hong Kong's most congested working-class residential areas, as well as one of its busiest shopping districts.

Mong Kok starts somewhere between Waterloo Rd and Argyle St to the south and ends

TRANSPORT – MONG KOK

MTR Mong Kok and Prince Edward MTR stations are on the Tsuen Wan and Kwun Tong lines.

KCR Mong Kok station is on the KCR East Rail.

at Boundary St in the north – strictly speaking, anything beyond that is the New Territories. The limit to the east is Waterloo Rd as it heads northward to Kowloon Tong and to the west the district of Tai Kok Tsui.

This is where locals come to buy everyday items, such as jeans, tennis shoes, computer accessories and kitchen supplies. Take a look at Fife St, which has an amazing collection of stalls selling old vinyl, books, ceramics, machinery and music scores. Mong Kok is also a good place to buy backpacks, hiking boots and sporting goods (p169). Two blocks southeast of the Mong Kok MTR station (exit D3) is the **Tung Choi Street market** (see boxed text, p156), which runs from Argyle St in the north to Dundas St in the south.

The streets west of Nathan Rd reveal Hong Kong's seamier side; this is where you'll find some of the city's seediest brothels. Mostly run by Triads, these places are often veritable prisons for young women. The Hong Kong police routinely raid these places, but a look at the rows of pastel-coloured neon strip lights on so many blocks is an indication that it's 'business as usual' despite the change in landlords.

YUEN PO ST BIRD GARDEN & FLOWER MARKET Map p98

Flower Market Rd; ☞ 7am-8pm; MTR Prince Edward (exit B1)

This market is a wonderful place to visit, if only to marvel at how the Hong Kong Chinese (especially men) fuss and fawn over their feathered friends. The Chinese have long favoured songbirds as pets; you often see local men walking around airing their birds and feeding them squirming caterpillars with chopsticks. Some birds are also considered harbingers of good fortune, which is why you'll see some people carrying them to the racetrack.

There are scores of birds for sale from the stalls here, along with elaborate cages carved from teak and bamboo. Adjacent to the bird garden is the flower market on Flower Market Rd, which keeps theoretically the same hours but only gets busy after 10am, especially on Sunday.

To get to the bird garden and flower market, from the Prince Edward MTR station, come out of exit B1 and walk east along Prince Edward Rd West for about 10 minutes.

KOWLOON'S TEEMING MARKET STREETS

Walking Tour

1 Yuen Po Street Bird Garden & Flower Market A 10-minute walk away from Prince Edward MTR (exit A), **Yuen Po Street Bird Garden** is the gathering place for mostly old men who air their caged birds here and feed them grasshoppers with chop sticks. A little further along, **Flower Market Rd** (left) is lined with fragrant and exotic blooms and plants.

2 Goldfish Market At the end of the street, turn left onto Sai Yee St, then right onto Prince Edward Rd West and left onto Tung Choi St: the first couple of blocks are dominated by bicycle shops but give way to up to a dozen shops trading in these extravagantly hued, and weirdly shaped fish. There's an amazing variety with the real rarities commanding high prices.

3 Tung Choi Street Market Sharpen your elbows. This market (see boxed text, p156), also known as the Ladies' Market, is crammed with stalls and shoppers selling mostly inexpensive clothing. Refuel on Taiwanese at **Tai Pak** (p194) before continuing south.

4 Temple Street Night Market Beneath the bleaching glare of naked light bulbs, hundreds of stalls (p96) sell a vast array of booty from bric-a-brac to clothes, shoes, luggage and accessories. Turn right at Shanghai St, cut down Hi Lung Lane to Temple St and turn right. The market runs right down to Jordan Rd.

5 Tin Hau Temple Fragrant smoke curls from incense spirals at this atmospheric **temple**

WALK FACTS

Start Prince Edward MTR station (entrance/exit A)
End Jordan MTR station (entrance/exit A)
Distance 4.5km
Time Two hours
Fuel stop Tai Pak

MONG KOK

INFORMATION
 Hong Kong Trade & Industry Department
 工業貿易署 1 C2

SIGHTS (pp98-9)
 Flower Market 花墟 2 D1
 Yuen Po St Bird Garden
 園圃街雀鳥花園 3 D1

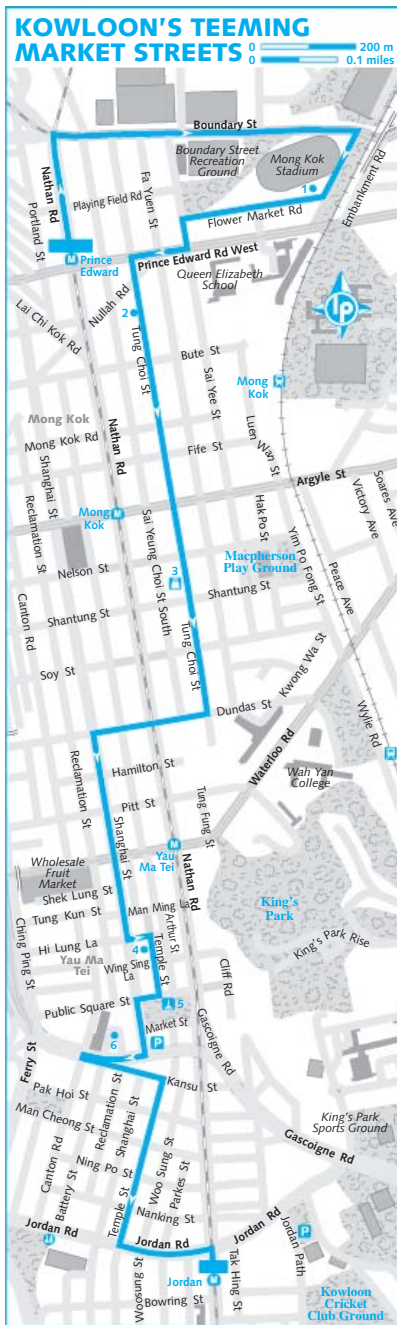
SHOPPING (p169)
 KHS Bicycles 飛球單車行 4 C2
 Langham Place Mall 朗豪坊 5 C3
 Mong Kok Computer Centre
 旺角電腦中心 6 C3
 Tung Choi St (Ladies) Market 女人街 7 C3
 Wing Shing Photo Supplies
 永成攝影器材公司 8 C3
 Wise Mount Sports 惠峰運動公司 9 D3

EATING (p194)
 Ming Court 明閣 (see 11)

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES (p230)
 Mong Kok Stadium 旺角大球場 10 D1

SLEEPING (pp263-4)
 Langham Place Hotel 朗豪酒店 11 C3
 Newton Hotel Kowloon 九龍龍東酒店 12 C1
 Royal Plaza Hotel 帝京酒店 13 D1

TRANSPORT (pp269-86)
 Buses to China 往中國大陸的士巴士 14 D3
 China Travel Service 中國旅行社 15 D3
 Trans-Island Chinalink
 環島旅遊有限公司 16 C2



(p98) to the goddess of the sea. Fortune-tellers nearby use everything from tarot cards, palmistry and even tame sparrows to deliver their predictions. Chinese opera singers sometimes also practise in the area.

6 Jade Market A great place to pick up an inexpensive trinket, this large covered market (p98) contains dozens of stalls selling jade, the much-valued Chinese precious stone. At Jordan Rd turn east, then south into Nathan Rd to find Jordan MTR station.

NEW KOWLOON

Eating p194; Shopping p170

New Kowloon (Map pp88–9) encompasses as many as 20 different neighbourhoods, but only half a dozen are of much interest to travellers. From west to east they are Sham Shui Po, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon City, Wong Tai Sin and Diamond Hill. The majority (and the places of interest described in this section) are within easy reach of an MTR station.

Sham Shui Po

A residential area of high-rises, Sham Shui Po (Map pp88–9) is famous for its market and computer emporiums (p170). North of (and easily accessible from) the district is Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb, an important archaeological find.

APLIU STREET MARKET Map pp88–9

Apliu St, btwn Nam Cheong & Kweilin Sts; ☎ noon-midnight; MTR Sham Shui Po

From the Sham Shui Po MTR station follow exit A1 and you'll soon fall right into this flea market, which makes a cheaper and more interesting hunting ground than the Temple Street Night Market. Everything from clothing to antique clocks and coins is on sale here, although the real speciality is second-hand electronic goods – radios, mobile phones, stereo systems, amplifiers and spare parts. The market spills over into Pei Ho St.

LEI CHENG UK HAN TOMB MUSEUM

Map pp88–9

☎ 2386 2863; www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/History/en/luht.php; 41 Tonkin St; admission free;

☎ 10am–6pm Mon–Wed & Fri–Sat, 1–6pm Sun & public holidays; MTR Cheung Sha Wan (exit A3), 🚗 2

from the Star Ferry or 2A from Nathan Rd in Mong Kok, alight in front of the museum

This burial vault dating from the Eastern Han dynasty (AD 25–220) was discovered in 1955 when workers were levelling the hillside for a housing estate. It is one of Hong Kong's earliest surviving historical monuments and, believe it or not, was once on the coast.

The tomb consists of four barrel-vaulted brick chambers that take the form of a cross; they are set around a domed central chamber and many of the bricks contained moulded patterns of fish, dragons and the like. It's encased in a concrete shell for protection and visitors can only peek through a plastic window; it's a bit of a journey for an anticlimactic peek through perspex. The museum also contains a few pottery and bronze pieces taken from the tomb.

From Cheung Sha Wan MTR take exit A3 and walk northeast for 10 minutes along Tonkin St.

Kowloon Tong

As well as containing two of Hong Kong's most prestigious seats of learning – the **Hong Kong Baptist University** (☎ 3411 7400), Hong Kong's most generously endowed seat of higher learning, and **City University of Hong Kong** (☎ 2788 7654) – Kowloon Tong (Map pp88–9) also has bridal shops with names like Cité du Louvre, where brides-to-be can buy their finery, have their photos done and even attend the ceremony itself. It is also a neighbourhood of knock-up shops – 'no-tells', as one wag called them, with revolving beds, velvet-flock wallpaper and heart-shaped jacuzzis. They're very popular for 'matinées' and rented by the hour.

FESTIVAL WALK SHOPPING CENTRE

Map pp88–9

☎ 2844 2222; 80–88 Tat Chee Ave; ☎ 10.30am–10pm; MTR Kowloon Tong

Kowloon Tong can claim Festival Walk, the territory's most luxurious shopping complex, and, in typical Hong Kong fashion, the centre boasts a fair few superlatives itself. Festival Walk has the largest cinema, bookshop and ice-skating rink (p229) in the territory. From the Kowloon Tong MTR station, take exit C2.

Kowloon City

Just west of what was once Kai Tak International Airport, the rather low-rent neighbourhood of Kowloon City (Map pp88–9) has two draw cards: a wonderful park that was once the infamous Kowloon Walled City, and a string of authentic and excellent-value Thai restaurants. The airport sits on a prime chunk of land, slowly being redeveloped.

KOWLOON WALLED CITY PARK

Map pp88–9

☎ 2716 9962, 2762 2084; www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/ls_park.php; Tung Tau Tsuen, Tung Tsing, Carpenter & Junction Rds; ☎ 6.30am–11pm; 🚗 1 from Star Ferry pier, alight opposite the park at Tung Tau Tsuen Rd

The walls that enclose this beautiful park were once the perimeter of a notorious village that technically remained part of China throughout British rule, as it was never included in the 1898 lease of the New Territories. The enclave was known for its vice, prostitution, gambling and illegal dentists. In 1984 the Hong Kong government acquired the area, redeveloped the residents elsewhere and built pavilions and ponds filled with turtles and goldfish and planted exquisite trees and shrubs, including a long hedge coaxed into the form of a dragon. The park opened in 1996. Close to the Carpenter Rd entrance of the park is the renovated Yamen building, once an almshouse. It contains displays on the history of the walled city, with a scale model of the village in the mid-19th century. At the park's north side are the remnants of the original South and East Gates.

TRANSPORT – NEW KOWLOON

MTR The two MTR lines running up the spine of Kowloon are useful for getting around New Kowloon. Key stops on the Tsuen Wan line include Sham Shui Po and Cheung Sha Wan MTR stations; key stops on the Kwun Tong line include Kowloon Tong, Lok Fu, Wong Tai Sin and Diamond Hill MTR stations.

KCR The most important stop on the KCR East Rail line is Kowloon Tong station, which has an interchange with Kowloon Tong MTR station.

Bus Buses 5 and 26 leave from Tsim Sha Tsui to Ma Tau Chung Rd for Kowloon.

Wong Tai Sin

The district of Wong Tai Sin to the north of Kowloon City is known for two things: its enormous and faceless housing estate and one of the most active and interesting temples in the territory.

SIK SIK YUEN WONG TAI SIN TEMPLE

Off Map pp88–9

☎ 2854 4333; Lung Cheung Rd; \$2 donation requested; 🕒 7am–6pm; MTR Wong Tai Sin

An explosion of colourful pillars, roofs, lattice work, flowers and incense, this busy temple is a destination for all walks of Hong Kong society, from pensioners to businesspeople, parents and young professionals.

Some come simply to pray, others to divine the future with *chim*, bamboo ‘fortune sticks’ that are shaken out of a box on to the ground and then read by a fortune-teller (they’re available for free to the left of the main temple).

The complex, adjacent to the Wong Tai Sin housing estate, was built in 1973 and is dedicated to the god of that name, who began his life as a humble shepherd in Zhejiang province. When he was 15 an immortal taught Wong Tai Sin how to make a herbal potion that could cure all illnesses. He is thus worshipped both by the sick and those trying to avoid illness. He is also a favourite god of businesspeople. The image of the god in the main temple was brought to Hong Kong from Guangdong province in 1915 and was initially installed in a temple in Wan Chai, where it remained until being moved to the present site in 1921.

Behind the main temple and to the right are the **Good Wish Gardens** (\$2 donation requested; 🕒 9am–4pm), replete with colourful pavilions (the hexagonal **Unicorn Hall**, with carved doors and windows, is the most beautiful), zigzag bridges, waterfalls and carp ponds.

Below the main temple and to the left as you enter the complex is an arcade filled with dozens of booths operated by fortune-tellers, some of whom speak English. Expect a consultation to cost upwards of \$100.

The busiest times at the temple are around Chinese New Year, Wong Tai Sin’s birthday (23rd day of the eighth month – usually in September) and on weekends. Getting to the temple is easy. From the Wong Tai Sin MTR station, take exit B2 and then follow the signs or the crowds (or both).

Diamond Hill

Spread out below the peak of the same name, the residential district of Diamond Hill is due east of Wong Tai Sin and is worth visiting solely for the nearby nunnery.

CHI LIN NUNNERY Off Map pp88–9

☎ 2354 1604; 5 Chi Lin Dr; admission free; 🕒 nunnery 9am–5pm, garden 6.30am–7pm; MTR Diamond Hill

One of the most beautiful and arrestingly built environments in Hong Kong, this large Buddhist complex, originally dating from the 1930s, was rebuilt completely of wood in the style of the Tang dynasty in 1998. It is a serene place, with lotus ponds, immaculate bonsai tea plants and bougainvillea, and silent nuns delivering offerings of fruit and rice to Buddha and arhats (Buddhist disciple freed from the cycle of birth and death), or chanting behind intricately carved screens. The design (involving intricately interlocking sections of wood joined without a single nail) is intended to demonstrate the harmony of humans with nature and is pretty convincing – until you look up at the looming neighbourhood high-rises behind the complex.

You enter the complex through the Sam Mun, a series of ‘three gates’ representing the Buddhist precepts of compassion, wisdom and ‘skilful means’. The first courtyard, which contains the delightful Lotus Pond Garden, gives way to the Hall of Celestial Kings, with a large statue of the seated Buddha surrounded by the deities of the four cardinal points. Behind that is the main hall, containing a statue of the Sakyamuni Buddha flanked by two standing disciples and two seated Bodhisattvas (Buddhist holy people). Below the complex is a café selling vegetarian snacks and dim sum for \$12 to \$25.

To reach the nunnery, take exit C2 of Diamond Hill MTR station, walk through the Hollywood Plaza shopping centre and turn east (left) on to Fung Tak Rd. The nunnery is a five-minute walk away.

Lei Yue Mun

Southeast of the old Kai Tak airport is the residential neighbourhood of Kwun Tong (Map pp50–1), and a bit further southeast is the rapidly modernising fishing village of Lei Yue Mun (Map pp50–1). *Láy-yèw* means ‘carp’ and *mùn* is ‘gate’;

the ‘carp gate’ refers to the channel separating southeast Kowloon from Hong Kong Island, which is the narrowest entrance to Victoria Harbour. Across the water on the island and looming on the hillside is 19th-century **Lei Yue Mun Fort** (Map pp54–5), which now contains the **Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence** (p80).

SAM KA TSUEN SEAFOOD PRECINCT

MTR Yau Tong (Exit A2)

The ‘village’ of Lei Yue Mun is one of Hong Kong’s prime seafood venues; around

two-dozen fish restaurants line narrow, winding Lei Yue Mun Praya Rd overlooking the typhoon shelter. The area is a colourful and lively place to dine by the water at night and is always busy. To get here from the Yau Tong MTR station, use exit A2 and follow Cha Kwo Ling Rd and Shung Shun St south for 15 minutes or catch green minibus 24M from outside the station. Bus 14C links the Yau Tong Centre halfway down the hill with the Kwun Tong MTR station.

NEW TERRITORIES

Many Hong Kong residents make the New Territories (Map pp50–1) their getaway for the weekend, and the eastern section, notably Sai Kung Peninsula in the northeast and the area around Clearwater Bay further south, has some of Hong Kong's most beautiful scenery and hiking trails. Life in these more rural parts of Hong Kong is more redolent of times past – simpler, slower, often more friendly.

The New Territories was so named because the area was leased to Britain in 1898, almost half a century after Hong Kong Island and four decades after Kowloon were ceded to the crown. For many years the area was Hong Kong's rural hinterland; however, since WWII, when some 80% of the land was under cultivation, many parts of the 'NT' – as the area is known locally – have become urbanised. In the past two decades the speed at which this development has taken place has been nothing short of heart stopping.

The New Territories is large, comprising 747 sq km, or almost 68% of Hong Kong's land area. Strictly speaking, everything north of Boundary St in Kowloon, up to the border with mainland China, is the New Territories. The northernmost part of the New Territories, within 1km of the Chinese frontier, is a 'closed border area' that is fenced and well marked with signs. It marks the boundary of the Hong Kong SAR with the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

Almost four million people, up from less than half a million in 1970, call the New Territories home – about half the total population of Hong Kong. Most of them live in 'New Towns'. Since its inception in the 1950s, the New Towns programme has consumed more than half of the Hong Kong government's budget, with much of the funding spent on land reclamation, sewage, roads and other infrastructure projects.

Getting to and around the New Territories has never been easier, particularly to the New Towns and areas of interest listed here. The KCR West Rail, which opened in late 2003, is now transporting passengers from Kowloon to the western New Territories as far as Tuen Mun. The MTR goes to Tsuen Wan (on the Tsuen Wan line) in the west and Po Lam in the east, from where you can catch buses and minibuses to explore other parts of the New Territories. Travel to the northern New Territories is simple, fast and cheap with the KCR East Rail, which connects Tsim Sha Tsui, Hung Hom and Kowloon Tong with Sha Tin, Tai Po, Sheung Shui and the Chinese border at Lo Wu. There are also a number of buses linking Hong Kong Island and Kowloon with the New Territories.

Once in the New Territories, buses – run for the most part by the **Kowloon Motor Bus Co** (KMB; ☎ 2745 4466; www.kmb.com.hk) – and green minibuses – which run on just under 200 routes – are the main ways to get around. For detailed bus route information check the KMB's website.

Catching a taxi is easy – at least to and from the New Towns; there are more than 2840 taxis cruising the streets and country roads of the New Territories. Ferries and *kaidos* (small, open-sea ferries) serve the more remote areas and a few large communities on the coast.

In the far west of the New Territories, the way to go is the KCR's Light Rail, a modern, street-level tram system that connects Tuen Mun with Yuen Long and stops at several interesting places along the way.

TSUEN WAN

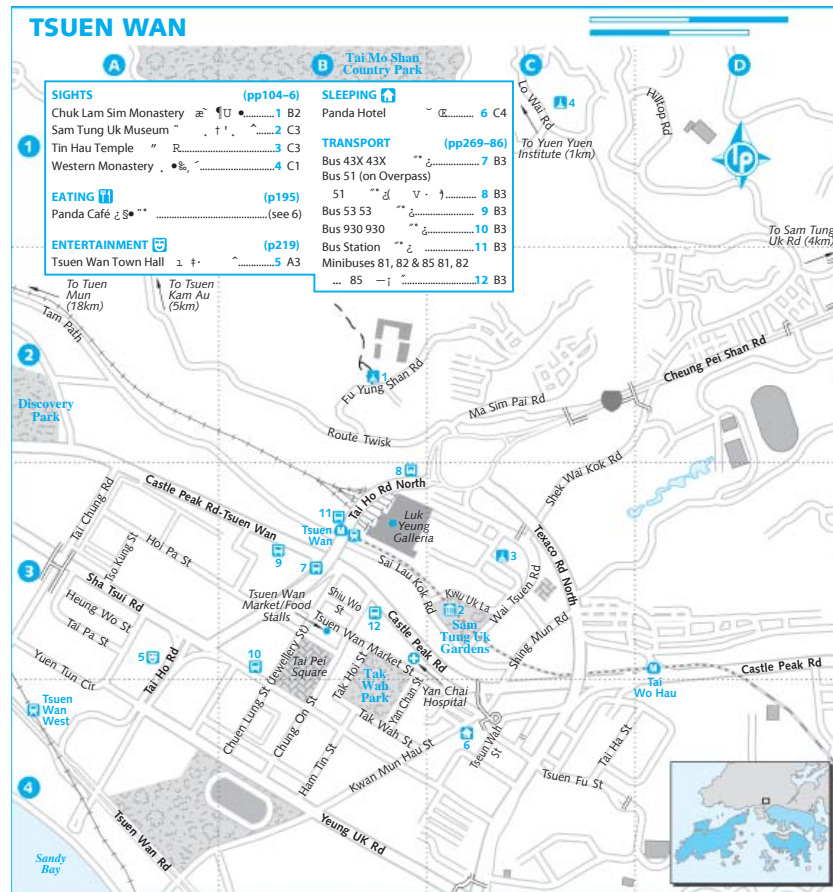
Eating p195

Among the easiest destinations in the New Territories to reach, Tsuen Wan (Map p105), or 'Shallow Bay', is an industrial and residential New Town northwest of Kowloon, with some 290,000 inhabitants. It's nothing special, but it does have a fine (though small) museum and some of the most colourful and active temple and monastic complexes in Hong Kong, including the serene Western Monastery (p106) and the vivid Yuen Yuen Institute (opposite), stuffed with all manner of deities.

top picks

NEW TERRITORIES

- Sai Kung's beaches (p126)
- Hong Kong Wetland Park (p107)
- MacLehose Trail (p226)
- Tsuen Wan's monasteries and museums (left)
- Hong Kong Heritage Museum (p125)
- 10,000 Buddhas Monastery (p124)



Chung On St, south of the Tsuen Wan MTR station, is famed for its jewellery and goldsmith shops. **Tak Wah Park** (☎ 6.30am-11pm) in the centre of town has ancient trees, footbridges over ponds and ornamental stone mountains. It's a peaceful place and an ideal spot to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the town around it.

The MTR station is on Sau Lau Kok Rd, with the Luk Yeung Galleria shopping centre above it. The main bus station is opposite the MTR on Castle Peak Rd (exit A2), but buses and green minibuses pick up and disgorge passengers throughout the New Town. Tsuen Wan is the last station on the Tsuen Wan MTR line. If you're really in a hurry to get there or back, change to the Tung Chung MTR line at Lai King, which has fewer stops.

YUEN YUEN INSTITUTE Off Map p105
☎ 2492 2220; Lo Wai Rd; ☎ 8.30am-5pm;
🚌 green minibus 81

Stuffed with vivid statuary of Confucian and Buddhist deities, the Yuen Yuen Institute, in the hills northeast of Tsuen Wan, is very much on the tourist trail but well worth a

TRANSPORT – TSUEN WAN

MTR Tsuen Wan MTR station on Tsuen Wan line.
KCR Tsuen Wan West station.

Bus Many buses (but not all) from around the new territories arrive at Tsuen Wan's central bus station, including bus 60M from Tuen Mun and 68M from Yuen Long. Bus 51 from Tai Mo Shan and Kam Tin stops along Tai Ho Rd.

visit nonetheless. The main building is a (vague) replica of the Temple of Heaven in Beijing. On the upper ground floor are three Taoist immortals seated in a quiet hall; walk down to the lower level to watch as crowds of the faithful pray and burn offerings to the 60 incarnations of Taoist saints lining the walls. This place is packed out at Chinese New Year. There are also deities representing particular years and birth signs, to which worshippers pray and make offerings.

To reach both the Institute and the Western Monastery, take minibus 81 from Shiu Wo St, two blocks due south of Tsuen Wan MTR station (exit B1). Bus 43X from along Tai Ho Rd, further south of the MTR station (exit D), will drop you off on Sam Tung Uk Rd. The monastery is several hundred metres away and the institute is just up the hill. A taxi from the MTR station will cost \$30 to \$35.

WESTERN MONASTERY Map p105

☎ 2411 5111; Lo Wai Rd; 🕒 8.30am-5.30pm; 🚗 green minibus 81

A short distance down from the Yuen Yuen Institute, the Buddhist Western Monastery offers a sharp contrast to what's going on up the hill. This is a tranquil complex in which to pass the time, observing points of interest both architectural and spiritual. After being greeted by a Bodhisattva statue in the entrance, the main building lies behind, styled as a classical Chinese palace. This comprises of the Hall of Maitreya and the Great Buddha's Hall above it. Further behind is another two-storey building where, depending on what time of day you visit, you may witness scores of monks chanting mantras. This building is topped by a spectacular nine-storey pagoda.

CHUK LAM SIM MONASTERY Map p105

☎ 2490 3392; Fu Yung Shan Rd; 🕒 9am-4.30pm; 🚗 green minibus 85

Chuk Lam Sim Yuen (Bamboo Forest Monastery) is one of the most impressive temple complexes in Hong Kong. The temple was completed in 1932 when an aged monk was told by Tou Tei, the earth god, to build it. Ascend the flight of steps to the first temple, walk to the back and enter the second. This second temple contains three of the largest golden Buddhas in the territory (though mere shadows of the big one on Lantau Island, p135). Flanking the trio on

either side is an equally impressive line-up of 12 Bodhisattvas, or Buddhists seeking enlightenment. The third temple contains another large image of Lord Gautama.

Chuk Lam Sim Monastery is northeast of Tsuen Wan MTR station. To reach it, take green minibus 85 from Shiu Wo St, which is two blocks due south of the MTR station (exit B1).

SAM TUNG UK MUSEUM Map p105

☎ 2411 2001; 2 Kwu Uk Lane; admission free; 🕒 9am-5pm Wed-Mon; MTR Tsuen Wan

This imaginative and well-tended museum is housed in a restored late-18th-century Hakka walled village, whose former residents, the Chan clan, were only resettled in 1980. Within the complex are a dozen three-beamed houses containing traditional Hakka furnishings, kitchenware, wedding items and agricultural implements, most of which came from two 17th-century Hakka villages in Bao'an county in Guangdong province. There are also special exhibits on such topics as rice farming in the New Territories. Behind the restored assembly and ancestral halls is the old village school, with interactive displays and videos on such topics as Hakka women, traditional crafts and traditional food.

At the Tsuen Wan MTR station, take exit E and walk five minutes southeast along Sai Lau Kok Rd to Kwu Uk Lane and the museum.

TAI MO SHAN

Sleeping p264

Hong Kong's tallest mountain is not Victoria Peak but Tai Mo Shan (Map pp50-1), the 'big misty mountain' that, at 957m, is nearly twice as high as that relative molehill (552m) on Hong Kong Island. Several hiking trails thread up and around it, but you'll need to bring your own food and water. The Countryside Series *North-East & Central New Territories* map is the one you want for this area (p295). If you don't want to go it alone, contact any of the

TRANSPORT – TAI MO SHAN

Bus Bus 64K links Tai Mo Shan with Yuen Long and Tai Po Market.

Green Minibus Bus 25K also runs between Tai Po Market and Tai Mo Shan.

outfits listed on p225. The **Tai Mo Shan Country Park Visitor Centre** (☎ 2498 9326; 🕒 9.30am-4.30pm Sat, Sun & holidays) is at the junction of Route Twisk (the name is derived from 'Tsuen Wan into Shek Kong') and Tai Mo Shan Rd, which is crossed by the MacLehose Trail.

To reach Tai Mo Shan from the Tsuen Wan MTR station, catch bus 51 on Tai Ho Rd North, alighting at the junction of Route Twisk and Tai Mo Shan Rd in Tsuen Kam Au. Follow Tai Mo Rd, which forms part of stage No 9 of the MacLehose Trail, east to the summit. On the right-hand side, about 45 minutes from the bus stop, a fork in the road leads south along a concrete path to the **See Lok Yuen Hostel** (p264).

For information on accessing stages of the MacLehose Trail and the Wilson Trail near Tai Mo Shan, see p226.

NG TUNG CHAI WATERFALL & KADOORIE FARM & BOTANIC GARDEN Map pp50-1

☎ 2483 7200; www.kfbg.org.hk; Lam Kam Rd; admission free; 🕒 9.30am-5pm; 🚗 64K

The area around the Ng Tung Chai Waterfall is scenic and worth a detour. It is near the village of Ng Tung Chai, which is several kilometres north of Tai Mo Shan and just south of Lam Kam Rd. There is actually a series of falls and streams here reached by taking the path leading to Ng Tung Chai and the Lam Kam Rd from the radio station on the summit of Tai Mo Shan.

Southwest of Ng Tung Chai is the Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden, a conservation and teaching centre where farmers receive practical training in crop and livestock management. The gardens are especially lovely, with many indigenous birds, animals, insects and plants in residence.

You can reach Kadoorie Farm most easily on bus 64K, which runs between Yuen Long KCR West Rail station and Tai Po Market KCR East station; get off on Lam Kam Rd near the sign for Ng Tung Chai village. If you walk from Tai Mo Shan to the village of Ng Tung Chai, you can catch green minibus 25K to Tai Po Market KCR East Rail station as well.

TUEN MUN

Eating p195

The largest and most important New Town in the western New Territories, Tuen Mun (Map pp50-1; population 550,000) is linked

TRANSPORT – TUEN MUN

KCR Tuen Mun West Rail station.

Light Rail Tuen Mun is towards the southern end of the useful light rail network. Other major points include Tin Shui Wai, Yuen Long and Siu Hong. The station is linked to the KCR station.

Bus An alternative route along the coast to Tuen Mun is to take bus 60M from Tsuen Wan MTR station (exit A3).

Ferry Services to Tuen Mun ferry pier arrive from Tung Chung, Sha Lo Wan and Tai O (all on Lantau).

with other centres in Kowloon and the New Territories by the KCR West Rail. If you're travelling to Tuen Mun from Tsuen Wan or points in Kowloon or Hong Kong Island by bus, sit on the upper deck on the left side for spectacular views of the Tsing Ma Bridge, which links Kowloon with Lantau Island. In recent years a number of important archaeological discoveries have been made here, notably to the north and west of Tuen Mun town (see p19).

As always in New Towns, the centre of Tuen Mun is dominated by commercial developments and shopping centres. Most buses stop at the station just west of the town hall, where you'll also find the Town Centre station of the Light Rail. The KCR's West Rail interchanges at the Tuen Mun Light Rail station. Ferries to the airport, Tung Chung and Tai O on Lantau depart from the pier to the southwest of the town centre, which is also served by the Light Rail (p282).

HONG KONG WETLAND PARK

Map pp50-1

☎ 3152 2666; www.wetlandpark.com; Wetland Park Rd, Tin Shui Wai; adult/child \$30/15; 🕒 10am-5pm Wed-Tue; 🚗 line 705 or 706

The space and serenity of this 60-hectare ecological park make it a wonderful place to while away half a day. Its nature trails, bird hides and viewing platforms are windows on the wetland ecosystems and biodiversity of the northwest New Territories. The futuristic grass-covered headquarters houses interesting galleries, including one on tropical swamps, a film theatre, a large café and a viewing gallery. It's oddly pleasing to watch in silence as a kingfisher dives and then turns 180 degrees to be faced with a bank of high-rise apartment blocks. If you

have binoculars then bring them, otherwise be prepared to wait to use the fixed points in the viewing galleries and hides.

To reach the Hong Kong Wetland Park, take the KCR West Rail to Tin Shui Wai and board Light Rail line 705 or 706, alighting at the Wetland Park stop. It can also be reached directly from Hong Kong Island, from the Admiralty MTR bus station on bus 967.

MIU FAT MONASTERY Map pp50–1

☎ 2461 8567; 18 Castle Peak Rd; 🕒 9am–5pm; 🚶 line 751

Miu Fat Monastery in Lam Tei, due north of Tuen Mun town centre, is one of the most well-kept and attractive Buddhist complexes in the territory. Guarding the entrance to the main temple are two stone lions and two stone elephants, and there are attractive gardens outside. This is an active monastery that preserves more of a traditional character than many smaller temples; you'll see Buddhist nuns in droves wearing brown robes.

On the ground floor there's a golden likeness of Buddha in a glass case; on the 2nd floor are three larger statues of Lord Gautama. The 1st floor is a vegetarian restaurant serving set meals and open to all (p196).

At the time of writing a new main complex is nearing completion. The soaring structure is 42m high with the top storey resembling a huge crystal lotus blossom that will light up at night.

Miu Fat Monastery is reached by Light Rail line 751 from the Tuen Mun or Town Centre stops to Lam Tei station. The complex is on the opposite side of Castle Peak Rd; cross over the walkway and walk north 150m. Bus 63X, from the Mong Kok MTR station and the Star Ferry terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui, also stops in front of the monastery.

CHING CHUNG TEMPLE Map pp50–1

☎ 2462 1507; Tsing Chung Koon Rd; 🕒 7am–6pm; 🚶 line 505

Ching Chung Koon (Green Pine Temple) is a peaceful Taoist temple complex northwest of Tuen Mun town centre. The main temple, which is on the left at the far end of the complex past rows of bonsai trees, bamboo and ponds, is dedicated to Lu Sun Young, one of the eight immortals of Taoism who lived in the 8th century. Flanking a statue of him are two of his disciples. Outside the entrance to the main temple are pavilions

containing a bell and a drum to call the faithful to pray or to rest. An annual Bonsai Festival is held here April.

Ching Chung Temple is directly opposite the Light Rail station of that name. To reach it from the Tuen Mun or Town Centre stations, catch line 505.

YUEN LONG

Eating p196

There's nothing special at Yuen Long (Map pp50–1; Yuen Long KCR West Rail), which currently counts some almost 500,000 inhabitants, but it's an important transport hub and a gateway to the Mai Po Marsh (see the following section). To the west of Yuen Long is the [Ping Shan Heritage Trail](#), one of the best spots to spend a tranquil hour or two in the western New Territories.

MAI PO MARSH

This fragile ecosystem (Map pp50–1) abutting Deep Bay, south of the border with the mainland, simply teems with life. It is a protected network of mud flats, *gây-wái* (shallow shrimp ponds), reed beds and dwarf mangroves, offering a rich habitat of up to 340 species of migratory and resident birds, more than a third of them rarely seen elsewhere in the territory. The area attracts birds in every season but especially winter, when an average 54,000 migratory waterfowl, including such endangered species as the Dalmatian pelican, black-faced spoonbill, spotted and imperial eagle and black vulture, pass through the marshes. In the centre is the Mai Po Nature Reserve, jointly managed by the World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong and the government's Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation Department.

Despite its protected status, the marsh's future is precarious. The water quality in Deep Bay is among the worst in the Hong Kong coastal area. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has found that levels of dissolved oxygen (DO) in the water have been declining since 1988. As a result, the numbers of crabs and mudskippers, on which the birds feed in winter, have declined. If the lower links of the food chain are seriously imperilled, the birds that depend on Mai Po as a stopping ground during migration could disappear, taking with them endangered mammals such as the leopard cat and otter.

(Continued on page 117)

(Continued from page 108)

The culprit is the neighbouring city of Shenzhen in mainland China, which is pumping out a rapidly increasing amount of sewage, about half of which is untreated. The only long-term solution to this environmental threat is for Shenzhen to build more sewage-treatment facilities but, as the population of the city expands faster than its infrastructure, this will take time. Meanwhile, the only hope in the short term is that Hong Kong's increasingly wet summers will flush out and dilute many of the pollutants, helping to raise the number of crabs and mudskippers.

Mai Po Marsh comprises some 1500 hectares of wetlands. The part open to visitors, the Mai Po Nature Reserve, is in the centre. For more detailed information about this and other areas, contact the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (p223).

MAI PO NATURE RESERVE Map pp50–1

☎ 2526 4473; San Tin, Yuen Long; admission \$100 (plus \$200 deposit); 🕒 9am–6pm; 🚶 76K from Fanling & Sheung Shui KCR East Rail stations or Yuen Long (On Tat Square station)

The 270-hectare nature reserve includes the [Mai Po Visitor Centre](#) (☎ 2471 8272) at the northeastern end, where you must register; the [Mai Po Education Centre](#) (☎ 2471 6306) to the south, with displays on the history and ecology of the wetland and Deep Bay; floating boardwalks and trails through the mangroves and mud flats; and a dozen hides (towers or huts from where you can watch birds up close without being observed). Disconcertingly, the cityscape of Shenzhen looms to the north.

Visitors are advised to bring binoculars (they may be available for rent at the visitor centre for \$20) and cameras, and to wear comfortable walking shoes or boots but not bright clothing. It is best to visit at high tide (minimum 2m), when birds in their tens of thousands – mostly ducks, gulls, cormorants and kingfishers, but many rare species as well – flock to the area. Ring the [weather hotline](#) (☎ 187 8200) or the [Hong Kong Observatory](#) (☎ 2926 8200; www.hko.gov.hk/tide/etide_main.htm) for tidal times.

Foreign visitors (but not Hong Kong residents) can visit the nature reserve unaccompanied but numbers are limited, so call well in advance to book a time.

Pay the \$100 entrance fee and \$200 deposit at the visitor centre; the latter will be returned when you leave the reserve. For Hong Kong residents regular tours are run on weekends and public holidays as well as seasonal ones. Again, these should be booked well in advance. If calling on a weekend or holiday, call the Visitor Centre number above.

The [World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong](#) (WWFHK; Map p56; ☎ 2526 4473; www.wwf.org.hk; 1 Tramway Path), adjacent to the entrance of the Peak Tram in Central, can arrange guided visits to the marsh; ring between 9am and 5pm on weekdays to book. Three-hour tours (\$70) leave the visitor centre at 9am, 9.30am, 10am, 2pm, 2.30pm and 3pm on Saturday, Sunday and public holidays, but are only conducted in English when there are a minimum of 10 visitors.

Bus 76K, which runs between Yuen Long and the Fanling and Sheung Shui KCR East Rail stations, will drop you off at Mai Po Lo Wai, a village along the main road just east of the marsh. The WWFHK car park is about a 20-minute walk from there. Red minibus 17 from San Fat St in Sheung Shui also goes to Mai Po Lo Wai. Alternatively, a taxi from Sheung Shui will cost \$60.

KAM TIN

The area around Kam Tin (Fertile Field; Map pp50–1) is where the Tangs, the first of Hong Kong's mighty Five Clans, settled in the 12th century AD and where they eventually built their walled villages (p19).

Walled villages, which usually had moats, are a reminder that Hong Kong's early settlers were constantly menaced by marauding pirates, bandits and imperial soldiers. They remain one of the most popular destinations for visitors to the New Territories.

Kam Tin contains two fortified villages: Kat Hing Wai and Shui Tau Tsuen. Most tourists go to Kat Hing Wai, as it is just off Kam Tin Rd, the main thoroughfare, and easily accessible. Shui Tau Tsuen is larger and less touristy, but don't expect to find remnants of ancient China. For details on Ping Kong, a seldom-visited walled village to the northeast, see p119.

KAT HING WAI Map pp50–1

🚶 64K

This tiny village is 500 years old and was walled in some time during the early Ming

TRANSPORT – KAM TIN

Bus Bus 64K stops along Kam Tin Rd on its way between Yuen Long and Tai Po Market KCR East Rail stations; bus 77K also goes to Yuen Long, Sheung Shui and Fanling.

dynasty (1368–1644). It contains just one main street, off which a host of dark and narrow alleyways lead. There are quite a few new buildings and retiled older ones in the village. A small temple stands at the end of the street.

Visitors are asked to make a donation when they enter the village; put the money in the coin slot by the entrance. You can take photographs of the old Hakka women in their traditional black trousers, tunics and distinctive bamboo hats with black cloth fringes, but they'll expect you to pay (around \$10).

Kat Hing is just south of Kam Tin Rd. If travelling from Yuen Long, get off at the first bus stop on Kam Tin Rd, cross the road and walk east for 10 minutes. Alternatively take a taxi from Kam Sheung Rd KCR West station for less than \$15.

SHUI TAU TSUEN Map pp50–1

🚌 64K

This 17th-century village, 15 minutes' walk north of Kam Tin Rd and signposted, is famous for its prow-shaped roofs decorated with dragons and fish along the ridges. Tiny traditional houses huddle inside Shui Tau Tsuen's walls.

The **Tang Kwong U Ancestral Hall** (🕒 9am–1pm & 2–5pm Wed, Sat & Sun) and, just north of it, the **Tang Ching Lok Ancestral Hall** (🕒 9am–1pm & 2–5pm Wed, Sat & Sun) in the middle of the village, were built in the early 19th century for ancestor worship. The ancestors' names are listed on the altar in the inner hall and on the long boards down the side. The sculpted fish, on the roof of the entrance hall, symbolise luck; in Cantonese, the word for 'fish' (*yéw*) sounds similar to the word for 'plenty' or 'surplus'. Between these two buildings is the small **Hung Shing Temple**. South of them is Shui Tau Tsuen's most impressive sight, the renovated **Yi Tai Study Hall** (🕒 9am–1pm & 2–5pm Wed, Sat & Sun), built in the first half of the 19th century and named after the gods of literature and martial arts. The **Tin Hau temple** on the outskirts of the

village to the north was built in 1722 and contains an iron bell weighing 106kg.

There's been a lot of building in and around Shui Tau Tsuen in recent years – massive Tsing Long Hwy and the KCR West Rail extension straddle it to the west – and the old sits rather uncomfortably with the new. But the further north you walk beyond the village, the calmer and more tranquil it gets.

To reach Shui Tau Tsuen, which is signposted from Kam Tin Rd, walk north, go under the subway below the Kam Tin Bypass, pass Kam Tai Rd and cross over the river to Chi Ho Rd. Go over the small bridge spanning a stream, turn right and then left to enter the village from the east. The first thing you'll pass is the Yi Tai Study Hall.

FANLING & SHEUNG SHUI

What were two lazy country villages (Map pp50–1) just a few years ago, Fanling and Sheung Shui now form one of the largest New Town conurbations in the New Territories, with some 300,000 inhabitants. Get a feel for what they were once like by walking around the Luen Wo Hu district at the northern end of Fanling. Major sights are thin on the ground here, but there's an important Taoist temple within easy walking distance and, a short bus ride away, a seldom-visited walled village and the **Lung Yeuk Tau Heritage Trail** (opposite; Map pp50–1). The posh 18-hole **Hong Kong Golf Course** (see p224) at Fanling will be a draw for some.

Fanling and Sheung Shui are in the north-central New Territories, much closer to the mainland (5km) than they are to Tsim Sha Tsui (20km). They are linked by San Wan Rd, along which the bulk of buses and green minibuses serving the two New Towns travel.

TRANSPORT – FANLING & SHEUNG SHUI

KCR Take the KCR to Fanling and Sheung Shui East Rail stations.

Bus Most onward travel connections depart from, or close to, KCR East Rail stations. Bus 76K to Yuen Long and Mai Po Marsh departs from Pak Wo Rd in Fanling and Choi Yun Rd in Sheung Shui. Bus 77K to Ping Kong stops at Yuen Long Jockey Club Rd in Fanling and Po Shek Wu Rd in Sheung Shui.

Green Minibus Bus 58K heads to Ping Kong from San Wan Rd in Sheung Shui.

FUNG YING SIN TEMPLE Map pp50–1

☎ 2669 9186; 66 Pak Wo Rd, Fanling; 🕒 9am–5pm; 🚶 Fanling

The main attraction in the area is this huge Taoist temple complex opposite the Fanling KCR East Rail station, and connected to it by an overhead walkway and subway. It has wonderful exterior murals of Taoist immortals and the Chinese zodiac, an orchard terrace, herbal clinic and a **vegetarian restaurant** (ground & 1st fl, Bldg A7; 🕒 10am–5pm). Most important are the dozen ancestral halls behind the main temple, where the ashes of the departed are deposited in what might be described as miniature tombs, complete with photographs.

MARKETS Map pp50–1

Wo Mun & Luen On Sts, Fanling; Chi Cheong Rds, Sheung Shui; 🕒 6am–8pm; 🚌 77K

These two lively markets frequented by Hakka people are worth a look, particularly early (ie before 10am). **Sheung Shui market** is 250m north of the Sheung Shui KCR East Rail station. To reach **Fanling market** in the old district of Luen Wo Hui, walk north along Sha Tau Kok Rd for about 1.5km or catch bus 77K from the Fanling KCR East Rail station. This bus carries on to the market in Sheung Shui.

PING KONG Map pp50–1

🚌 77K

This sleepy walled village in the hills south of Sheung Shui is seldom visited by outsiders. Like other walled villages still inhabited in Hong Kong, it is a mix of old and new, and has a lovely little **Tin Hau temple** in the centre. You can also go exploring around the farming area behind the village compound.

To get to Ping Kong from Sheung Shui, catch green minibus 58K from the huge minibus station south of the Sheung Shui Landmark North shopping centre on San Wan Rd. The centre is a short walk northwest of Sheung Shui KCR East Rail station. Alternatively, bus 77K between Yuen Long and the Sheung Shui and Fanling KCR East Rail stations travels along Fan Kam Rd. Alight at the North District Hospital stop and walk southeast along Ping Kong Rd to the village.

A taxi from the Sheung Shui KCR East Rail station to Ping Kong will cost \$20.

LUNG YEUK TAU HERITAGE TRAIL

Walking Tour

1 Lo Wai Begin this walk about a kilometre northeast of the KCR station on Luk Tung St. The first real port of call on this trail are the impressive brick enclosing walls facing this tiny walled village and just to the east a lovely **Tin Hau Temple** with two 18th-century bells.

2 Tang Chung Ling Ancestral Hall (🕒 9am–1pm & 2–5pm Wed–Mon) was built in 1525 in honour of the founder of the Tang clan, and one of the largest such structures in the New Territories.

WALK FACTS

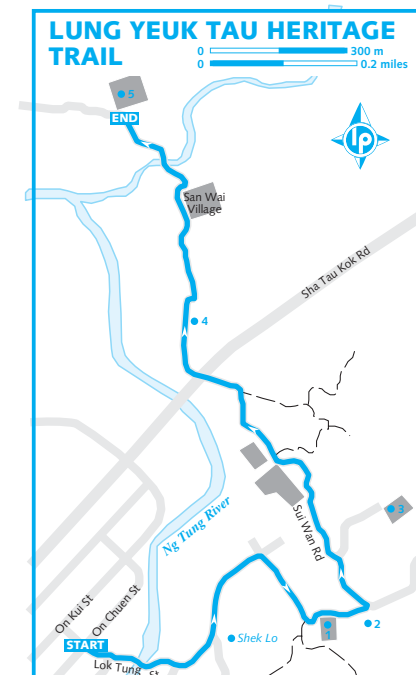
Start Lok Tung St in Fanling (green minibus 54K from Fanling KCR station)

End Siu Hang Tsuen (green minibus 56K to Fanling KCR station)

Distance 4.5km

Time 2½ to three hours

Fuel stop Fanling market



The entire hall is richly decorated with fine wood carvings, colourful plaster mouldings and murals.

3 Walled Villages Turning left, away from the hall, heading northwest over the next 800m you'll pass more little villages, including Wing Ning Wai and Wing Ning Tsuen, whose houses are at different heights for feng shui reasons.

4 Sin Shut Study Hall After crossing Sha Tau Kok Rd, keep ahead rather than following the road on the left. Built in 1840 and boasting some fine tiles.

5 San Wai & Siu Hang Tsuen The last walled village on the trail, San Wai and Siu Hang Tsuen now contains mostly modern buildings. From here you can pick up the minibus back to the centre of Fanling. A taxi to the KCR station will cost just over \$15. With any number of *daai-p'ai-dawng* (street stalls) and noodle shops, Fanling market (p119) is just over 1km northwest of the start of the trail.

TAI PO

Eating p196

Another large residential and industrial New Town, Tai Po (Map p121) is the springboard for excursions into Plover Cove Country Park and Pat Sin Leng Country Park. **Four Lanes Square**, where four pedestrian streets converge in the centre of town, is a popular shopping area. The **Old Tai Po District Office** (Wan Tau Kok Lane) was built in 1907 and is one of the oldest examples of Western architecture in the New Territories.

Tai Po lies north and south of the Lam Tsuen River, at the westernmost point of Tolo Harbour, making it an excellent springboard for excursions into Plover Cove Country Park and Pat Sin Leng Country Park. It's an attractive market town and home to the Hong Kong Railway Museum (right).

Bicycles can be rented in season from several stalls around Tai Po Market KCR East Rail station, but try to arrive early – they often run out during the busiest times. There are a number of bicycle shops lining Kwong Fuk Rd northwest of the KCR station.

One cycling route not to miss is the ride to **Plover Cove Reservoir** (p122) on the northeast side of Tolo Harbour. Another is to the Chinese University of Hong Kong (p123) in Ma Liu Shui, on the southwest side of the harbour.

Allow at least half a day for either trip. There is an inland route to the university, but the coastal route linking the university with Tai Mei Tuk has the best views. Another option is to follow Ting Kok Rd east to the fishing village **San Mun Tsai** (Map pp50–1).

HONG KONG RAILWAY MUSEUM

Map p121

☎ 2653 3455; 13 Shung Tak St; admission free; 🕒 9am–5pm Wed–Mon; 🇨🇳 Tai Wo

The museum is housed in the former Tai Po Market train station, built in 1913 in traditional Chinese style, and spills into the outside garden. Exhibits, including a narrow-gauge steam locomotive dating back to 1911, detail the history of the development of rail transport in the territory. There is also much attention paid to the opening of the Kowloon–Canton Railway in 1910 and its original terminus in Tsim Sha Tsui, which moved to Hung Hong in 1975.

You can get to the museum most easily by alighting at Tai Wo KCR East Rail station, walking south through the Tai Wo Shopping Centre and housing estate, and crossing the Lam Tsuen River via Tai Wo Bridge (the small one with the Chinese roof) leading from Po Nga Rd. The museum is just southeast.

LAM TSUEN WISHING TREE

Map pp50–1

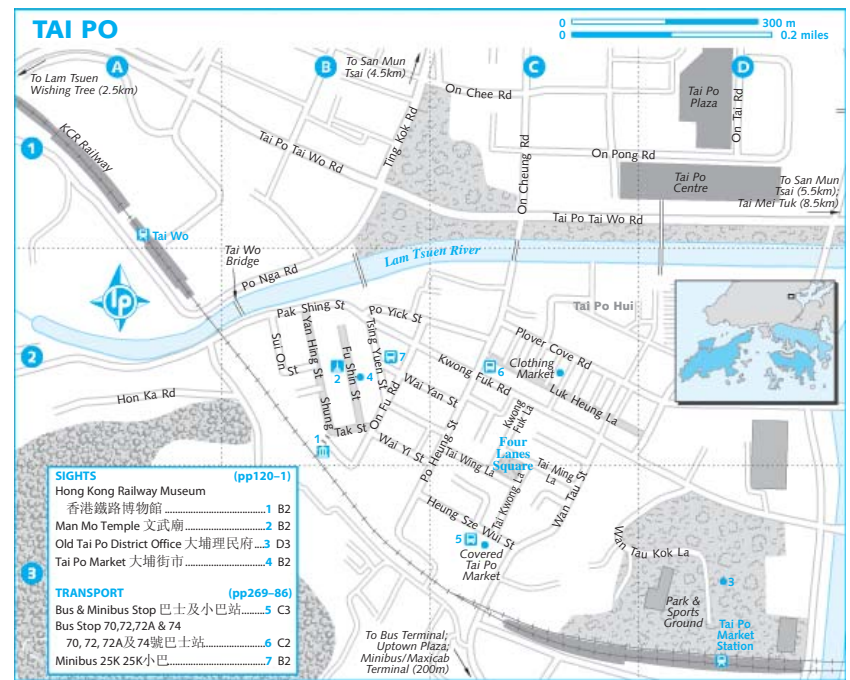
Lam Kam Rd, Fong Ma Po; 🇨🇳 64K
Until a short time ago Tai Po was the springboard for this large banyan tree, laden with coloured streamers of paper tied to oranges, in the village of Fong Ma Po to the southwest. The idea was to write your wish on a piece of paper, tie it to the citrus fruit and then throw it as high as you could up into the tree. If your fruit lodged in the branches, you were in luck – and the higher it went, the more chance there was of your

TRANSPORT – TAI PO

KCR Take the KCR to Tai Po Market or Tai Wo East Rail stations.

Bus Bus 71K runs between Tai Wo and Tai Po Market KCR East Rail stations.

Green Minibus For onward travel start at Tai Po Market KCR station or Heung Sze Wui St for bus 20K to San Mun Tsai; catch the bus at Tsing Yuen St for bus 25K to Ng Tung Chai (Tai Mo Shan).



wish coming true. But things got, er, out of hand just once too often, and in 2005, a week after the end of Chinese New Year, a large branch of the tree came crashing to the ground, dashing most punters' wishes once and for all.

Focus switched to another tree nearby, which became the new arboreal oracle while the original was left to recover. However, this practice soon was stopped, too. In the name of conservation, wish makers can now only tie their wishing papers to Chinese-style wooden racks. You can still buy the wishing papers from vendors but you're unlikely to find any oranges for sale. At least there's a small **Tin Hau temple** nearby, replete with fortune-tellers, to compensate for your curtailed wish making.

To reach the tree catch bus 64K from the Tai Po Market KCR East Rail station and alight at Fong Ma Po.

TAI PO MARKET

Map p121

Fu Shin St; 🇨🇳 6am–8pm; 🇨🇳 Tai Wo
Not to be confused with the KCR East Rail station of the same name, this street-long outdoor wet market is a stone's throw from the Hong Kong Railway Museum and

is one of the busiest and most interesting markets in the New Territories. Towards the northern end of the same street, the double-hall **Man Mo Temple** (🇨🇳 8am–6pm) is a major centre of worship for the Tai Po area. It was founded in the late 19th century and, like the Man Mo Temple found in Sheung Wan (p67), it is dedicated to the gods of literature and of war.

PLOVER COVE

The area around Plover Cove Reservoir (Map pp50–1) is good hiking and cycling country and well worth at least a full day's exploring. The village of Tai Mei Tuk, the springboard for most of the activities in the Plover Cove area, is about 6km northeast of Tai Po Market KCR East Rail station.

It may be worthwhile getting a copy of Universal Publications' *Tseung Kwan O, Sai Kung, Clearwater Bay* or else the Countryside Series map *North-East & Central New Territories* (see p295).

Bicycles can be rented at Tai Mei Tuk at several locations, including **Lung Kee Bikes** (☎ 2662 5266; Ting Kok Rd, Lung Mei village; bicycle rental per day \$25; 🕒 9.30am–6pm). A bicycle track along

the coast runs from Tai Mei Tuk to Chinese University (opposite) at Ma Liu Shui. Ting Kok Rd in Lung Mei village is also where you'll find a row of popular restaurants (p196). Row-boats are available for hire from **Sang Lee Boat Rental** (☎ 2660 5402; small/big boat per hr \$20/50, 6hr \$120/250; 🕒 9.30am-6pm) on the picture-postcard bay south of the main parking lot on Tai Mei Tuk Rd, where buses and minibuses terminate. Adjacent to the car park is the **Tai Mei Tuk Fish Farm** (p224), where you can try your luck angling for some freshwater fish.

The **Plover Cove Country Park Visitor Centre** (Map pp50-1; ☎ 2498 9326; 🕒 9.30am-4pm Sat, Sun & public holidays), a short distance further east from the car park on Ting Kok Rd, is where the **Pat Sin Leng Nature Trail** (see below) to Bride's Pool starts.

PAT SIN LENG NATURE TRAIL

Map pp50-1

🚶 75K

This excellent (and easy) 4.4km-long trail, which should take from two to 2½ hours, leads from the Plover Cove Country Park Visitor Centre at Tai Mei Tuk and heads northeast for 4km to Bride's Pool; there are signboards numbered 1 to 22 so there is little danger of getting lost. The elevation gain is only 300m, the scenery is excellent and the two waterfalls at Bride's Pool are delightful, but the place gets packed on the weekend. You can either return to Tai Mei Tuk via Bride's Pool Rd on foot or catch green minibus 20C, which stops at Tai Mei Tuk before carrying on to Tai Po Market KCR station. On Sunday and public holidays only, bus 275R links Bride's Pool with Tai Po. If you carry on north from Bride's Pool to Luk Keng on Starling Inlet, you can catch green minibus 56K, which will take you to Fanling KCR station. Those looking for a more strenuous hike can join stage No 9 of the **Wilson Trail** (p227) at Tai Mei Tuk on the Plover Cove Reservoir and head west into the steep Pat Sin Leng range of hills

TRANSPORT – PLOVER COVE

Bus Take bus 75K (and additionally 74K or 275R on Sundays and holidays) from Tai Po Market KCR East Rail station (Map p121) in Tai Po.

Green Minibus Bus 20C passes through Tai Po Market KCR station and Heung Sze Wui St (Map p121) in Tai Po on its way to Plover Cove.

(named after the 'Eight Immortals' of Taoism) to Wong Leng Shan (639m). The trail then carries on westward to Hok Tau Reservoir and Hok Tau Wai (12km, four hours).

PLOVER COVE RESERVOIR Map pp50-1

🚶 75K

Plover Cove Reservoir was completed in 1968 and holds 230 million cubic metres of water; before then Hong Kong suffered from critical water shortages and rationing was not uncommon. Even after the reservoir opened, water sometimes had to be rationed; taps were turned on for only eight hours a day through the dry winter of 1980-81. The reservoir was built in a very unusual way. Rather than build a dam across a river, of which Hong Kong has very few, a barrier was erected across the mouth of a great bay. The sea water was siphoned out and fresh water – mostly piped in from the mainland – was pumped in.

TAI PO KAU

South of Tai Po is the small settlement of Tai Po Kau, which most visitors wouldn't give a second thought were it not for the wonderful nature reserve here. Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve lies south of Tai Po, less than 1km inland from Tolo Harbour. The main entrance and the information centre are at the village of Tsung Tsai Yuen in the northernmost part of the reserve along Tai Po Rd.

TAI PO KAU NATURE RESERVE

Map pp50-1

Tai Po Rd; 🚶 70 or 72

The Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve is a thickly forested 460-hectare 'special area' and is Hong Kong's most extensive woodlands. It is home to many species of butterflies, amphibians, birds, dragonflies and trees, and is a superb place in which to enjoy a quiet walk. The reserve is crisscrossed with four main tracks ranging in length from 3km (red trail) to 10km (yellow trail), and a short nature trail of less than 1km. If possible, avoid the reserve on Sunday and public holidays, when the crowds descend upon the place en masse.

The reserve is supposed to emphasise conservation and education rather than recreation, and about 1km northwest of the reserve entrance and down steep Hung Lam Drive is the **Kerry Lake Egret Nature Park**

TRANSPORT – TAI PO KAU

Bus Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve is well served by buses. Bus 70 passes through Jordan and Mong Kok on its way here. Bus 72 can be used to get here from nearby the Sha Tin and Tai Po Market KCR East Rail stations.

KCR A taxi from Tai Po Market KCR East Rail station will cost around \$20, and from the University KCR East Rail station about \$38.

and the much-touted, over-priced **Museum of Ethnology** (☎ 2657 6657; www.taipokau.org; 2 Hung Lam Dr; adult/concession \$25/15; 🕒 1-6pm Sun & public holidays). In the same complex is the delightful **Little Egret Restaurant** (p196).

UNIVERSITY

The **Chinese University of Hong Kong** (Map pp50-1; ☎ 2609 6000; www.cuhk.edu.hk/v6/en/), established in 1963, is in Ma Liu Shui and served by University KCR East Rail station. It is situated on a beautiful campus and its art museum is well worth a visit.

Ma Liu Shui and the Chinese University of Hong Kong are southeast of Tai Po and Tai Po Kau, overlooking Tolo Harbour. The University KCR East Rail station is southeast of the four campuses (Chung Chi Campus, New Asia Campus, Shaw Campus and United Campus). Ferries from Ma Liu Shui ferry pier, opposite the university on the eastern side of Tolo Hwy and about 500m northeast of University station, serve the Sai Kung Peninsula (p126) and Tap Mun Chau (p128) twice daily (p274). A taxi from the station to the pier will cost \$12.50.

CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG ART MUSEUM Map pp50-1

☎ 2609 7416; www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/amm; Sir Run Run Shaw Hall, Central Ave; admission free; 🕒 10am-5pm (closed public holidays); 📍 University

The Chinese University of Hong Kong Art Museum is divided into two sections. The four-floor East Wing Galleries house a permanent collection of Chinese paintings, calligraphy, ceramics and other decorative arts, including 2000-year-old bronze seals and a large collection of jade flower carvings. The West Wing Galleries stage five to six special exhibitions each year.

A shuttle bus from University station travels through the campus to the admin-

istration building at the top of the hill; for the museum, get off at the second stop. The bus runs every 20 to 30 minutes daily and is free except on Sunday (\$5) from September to May. From June to August, it costs \$1 Monday to Saturday and \$5 on Sundays.

SHA TIN

Sleeping p265

Sha Tin (Sandy Field; Map p124) is an enormous New Town (population 637,000) built mostly on land that was once a mud flat and produced some of the best rice in imperial China. Sha Tin retains some traditional Chinese houses, giving parts of it a historical feel absent in most of the other New Towns. Hong Kong Chinese flock to Sha Tin on the weekends to place their bets at the nearby racecourse or to shop at Sha Tin's **New Town Plaza** (Map p124), one of the biggest shopping centres in the New Territories. For visitors, the drawcards are the temples and one of the best museums in Hong Kong.

Sha Tin lies in a narrow valley on both banks of a channel of the Shing Mun River. Fo Tan, where the racecourse is located, is to the north and northeast, and Tai Wai, where you'll find the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, is to the south. Though once separate villages, they are now extensions of the Sha Tin conurbation. Sha Tin KCR East Rail station is west of (and connected to) New Town Plaza in central Sha Tin. Buses arrive at and depart from the KCR East Rail station, the bus station below New Town Plaza and the one at City One Plaza on Ngan Shing St on the opposite side of the channel. You can rent bicycles from several kiosks in Sha Tin Park, south of New Town Plaza shopping centre, including **Power Three Company** (Map p124; ☎ 2603 0498; Kiosk No 3; per hr Mon-Fri \$20, per hr Sat & Sun \$25; 🕒 9am-7pm).

TRANSPORT – SHA TIN

KCR Sha Tin, Tai Wai (Map pp50-1), Fo Tan (Map pp50-1) and Racecourse (Map pp50-1) East Rail stations.

Train Che Kung Temple (Map pp50-1) station.

Bus Buses into and out of Sha Tin leave from/terminate at City One Plaza Sha Tin bus station. Bus 182 links Sha Tin with Wan Chai, Admiralty and Central. Bus 170 connects Sha Tin KCR East Rail bus station with Causeway Bay and Aberdeen. Bus 299 shuttles between Sha Tin and Sai Kung.

10,000 BUDDHAS MONASTERY

Map pp50-1

☎ 2691 1067; www.10kbuddhas.org; admission free; 🕒 9am-6pm; 🚶 Sha Tin

Perched on Po Fook Hill about 500m north-west of Sha Tin KCR East Rail station, this quirky temple is well worth a visit. Built in the 1950s, the complex actually contains more than 10,000 Buddhas – some 12,800 miniature statues line the walls of the main temple. Dozens of life-sized golden statues of Buddha's followers flank the steep steps leading to the monastery complex. There are several temples and pavilions split over two levels, as well as a nine-storey pagoda that can be climbed. For sustenance the complex also has a **vegetarian restaurant** (🕒 10.15am-4pm or 5pm). Be aware the temple may close if it's raining heavily.

To reach the monastery, take exit B at Sha Tin KCR station and walk down the ramp, passing a series of traditional houses at Pai Tau village on the left. Take the left onto Pai Tau St, and turn right onto Sheung Wo Che St. At the end of this road, a series of signs in English will direct you to the left along a concrete path and through bamboo groves to the first of some 400 steps

leading up to the monastery. An alternative route down is to take the path from the lower level. This will take you back down to the houses at Pai Tau Village by the rail station.

AMAH ROCK Map pp50-1

This boulder southwest of Sha Tin may look like just a rock, but it's an oddly shaped one and, like many local landmarks in Hong Kong, it carries a legend. It seems that for many years a fisherman's wife would stand on this spot in the hills above **Lion Rock Country Park**, watching for her husband to return from the sea while carrying her baby on her back. One day he didn't come back – she waited and waited. The gods apparently took pity on her and transported her to heaven on a lightning bolt, leaving her form in stone. The name of the rock in Cantonese is Mong Fu Shek, or 'Gazing out for Husband Stone'. It's a popular place of pilgrimage for girls and young lovers during the Maiden's Festival on the seventh day of the seventh moon (mid-August).

As you take the KCR south from Sha Tin to Kowloon, Amah Rock is visible to the east (ie on the left-hand side) up on the

hill-side after Tai Wai KCR East Rail station, but before the train enters the tunnel.

CHE KUNG TEMPLE Map p124

☎ 2691 1733; Che Kung Miu Rd; admission free; 🕒 7am-6pm; 🚶 Che Kung Temple

This large Taoist temple complex, built in 1993, is on the opposite bank of the Shing Mun River channel in Tai Wai. It's dedicated to Che Kung, a Song-dynasty general credited with ridding Sha Tin of the plague; you'll see an enormous and quite powerful statue of the good general in the main temple to the left as you enter the complex. The main courtyard, flanked by eight statues of Taoist immortals, is always a hive of activity.

To reach the temple, take the KCR East Rail to Tai Wai station and change to the Ma On Shan Rail extension, alighting at Che Kung Temple station. The temple is just west of here.

HONG KONG HERITAGE MUSEUM

Map p124

☎ 2180 8188; www.heritagemuseum.gov.hk; 1 Man Lam Rd; adult/concession \$10/5, admission free Wed; 🕒 10am-6pm Mon & Wed-Sat, 10am-7pm Sun; 🚶 Sha Tin

Located southwest of Sha Tin town centre, this exceptional museum is housed in a three-storey, purpose-built structure that is reminiscent of an ancestral hall. It has both rich permanent collections and innovative temporary exhibits in a dozen galleries.

The ground floor contains a book and gift shop, the wonderful **Children's Discovery Gallery**, with eight learning and play zones (including 'Life in a Village', 'Undersea Garden', 'Mai Po Marsh') for kids aged four to 10, a **Hong Kong Toy Story** hands-on area for tots and an **Orientation Theatre**, with a 12-minute

introductory video in English on the hour. There's also a lovely **teahouse** (🕒 10am-6pm).

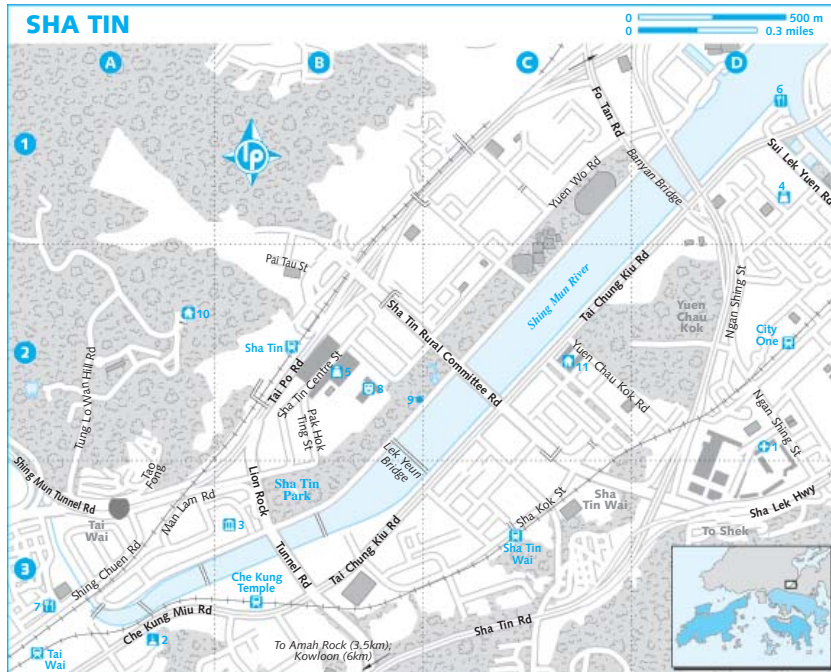
Along with five thematic (ie temporary) galleries, the 1st floor contains the best of the museum's permanent collections: the **New Territories Heritage Hall**, with mock-ups of traditional shops, a Hakka fishing village and history of the New Towns; the **Cantonese Opera Heritage Hall**, where you can watch old operas on video with English subtitles, 'virtually' make yourself up as a Cantonese opera character on computer or just enjoy the costumes and sets; and the **Chao Shao-an Gallery**, devoted to the work of the eponymous water-colourist (1905-98) and founder of the Lingnan School of painting (p33).

The 2nd floor contains another thematic gallery and the **TT Tsui Gallery of Chinese Art**, an Aladdin's cave of fine ceramics, pottery, bronze, jade and lacquerware, stone carvings, and furniture. You may be interested in some of the gifts various Chinese provinces presented to China for the reunification, which are on display in the hallways.

To reach the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, take the KCR East Rail to Sha Tin station and walk south along Tai Po Rd. If coming from the Che Kung Temple, walk east along Che Kung Miu Rd, go under the subway and cross the footbridge over the channel. The museum is 200m to the east.

SHA TIN RACECOURSE Map pp50-1

☎ 1817 hotline; www.sha-tin.com; Penfold Park; admission on race days public stands \$10, members enclosures \$100-150; 🚶 Racecourse or Fo Tan Northeast of Sha Tin town centre is Hong Kong's second racecourse, which opened in 1978 and can accommodate up to 80,000 punters. In general, races are held on Saturday afternoon – and sometimes on Sunday and public holidays – from September to



SHA TIN

INFORMATION

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Che Kung Temple
車公廟..... 2 A3

Hong Kong Heritage Museum
香港文化博物館..... 3 B3

City One Plaza Sha Tin
沙田第一城..... 4 D1

New Town Plaza
新城市廣場..... 5 B2

EATING 🍴

A-1 Bakery Shop..... (see 5)
A-1 Restaurant..... (see 5)

Kaga Japanese Restaurant
加賀日本料理..... (see 5)

Saints Alp Teahouse..... (see 5)
Star Seafood Restaurant

明星海鮮酒家..... 6 D1
Sun Keung Kee Roasted Goose & Seafood Restaurant

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ENTERTAINMENT 🎬 (p219)

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Ascension House..... 10 A2
Regal Riverside Hotel

麗豪酒店..... 11 C2

TRANSPORT (p286)

China Travel Service
中國旅行社..... (see 5)

June; a list of race meetings is available from the HKTB or the racecourse website.

Bets are easily placed at one of the numerous computerised betting terminals run by the **Hong Kong Jockey Club** (p230). There is a worthwhile horse racing tour available for the interested but uninitiated, through Gray Line or Splendid Tours & Travel (see p298).

The KCR Racecourse station, just west of the track, opens on race days only. Otherwise, get off at Fo Tan station and walk north along Lok King St, and its extension Lok Shun Path, for about 1.5km.

SAI KUNG PENINSULA

Drinking & Nightlife p212; Eating p197; Sleeping p265
The Sai Kung Peninsula (Map pp50–1), in the northeastern New Territories, is the garden spot of the New Territories. It is also one of

the last areas left in Hong Kong – the Outlying Islands notwithstanding – reserved for outdoor activities, and 60% of the peninsula is one huge 7500-hectare country park, divided into Sai Kung East and Sai Kung West. Though strictly speaking not on the peninsula, the 28,880-hectare **Ma On Shan Country Park** is contiguous with it and access is from Sai Kung Town. The hiking is excellent in Sai Kung – the **MacLehose Trail** (p226) runs right across it – there's sailing galore and some of the best **beaches** in the territory are here.

The region is washed by Tolo Harbour to the north, Mirs Bay to the east and Port Shelter to the south. On the southern end of the peninsula is High Island Reservoir, once a sea channel and now Hong Kong's second-largest source of fresh water.

A good website devoted exclusively to the area is the district council's www.travelsaikung.org.hk.

ISLAND HOPPING IN SAI KUNG

You can make any number of easy boat trips from Sai Kung Town, exploring the mosaic of islands that dot the harbour. It's a delightful way to spend a few hours or even an entire day. Most *kaidos* (small, open-sea ferries) leave from the pier on the waterfront, just in front of Hoi Pong Square.

The easiest (and cheapest) way to go is to jump aboard a 'scheduled' *kaido* (ie one that goes according to demand and when full) bound for the small island of **Yim Tin Tsai** (\$15, 15 minutes).

On the way, the boat weaves through a number of small islands. The first island to the east of Sai Kung Town is **Yeung Chau** (Sheep Island). You'll be able to spot a horseshoe-shaped burial plot up on the slope; for reasons dictated by feng shui, the Chinese like to position graves with decent views of the sea. Southeast of Yeung Chau, **Pak Sha Chau** (White Sand Island) has a popular beach on its northern shore.

Just beyond Pak Sha Chau is the northern tip of the much larger **Kiu Tsui Chau** (Sharp Island), arguably the most popular island destination. Kiu Tsui Chau has several fine, sandy beaches: Kiu Tsui and, connected to it by a sand spit, Kiu Tau on the western shore, and Hap Mun on the island's southern tip. Both can be reached by *kaido* (\$10) directly from Sai Kung Town.

Yim Tin Tsai (Little Salt Field) is so-called because the original fisherfolk who lived here augmented their income by salt-panning. A few minutes' walk from the jetty up a small flight of steps to the left is St Joseph's Chapel, the focal point of the island. This is Yim Tin Tsai's only house of worship, which is most unusual in an area of Hong Kong where temples devoted to Tin Hau proliferate. Apparently the villagers, who all belong to the same clan, converted to Catholicism 150 years ago after St Peter appeared on the island to chase away pirates who had been harassing them.

Yim Tin Tsai is connected to the much larger island of **Kau Sai Chau** by a narrow spit of land that becomes submerged at high tide. Kau Sai Chau is the site of the 36-hole **Jockey Club Kau Sai Chau Public Golf Course** (Map p127; see also p224), a public link that can be reached by the course's direct ferry from Sai Kung (adult/concession \$50/30 return), which departs every 20 minutes daily from 6.40am to 9pm; the last boat back is at 10pm. Boats dock in Sai Kung Town at the long pier opposite the new Sai Kung Waterfront Park. The 19th-century Hung Shing Temple at the southern tip of Kau Sai Chau won a Unesco restoration award in 2000.

Beyond Kau Sai Chau is **Leung Shuen Wan** (High Island), a long trip from Sai Kung Town, and the **High Island Reservoir**, which was built in 1978 by damming what was once a large bay with doloses (huge cement barriers shaped like jacks); sea water was then siphoned out and fresh water pumped in. You can see one example of a doloose, weighing 25 tonnes, on display on the pier in Sai Kung Town (Map p127).

If you want to be out on the water for a longer period or to have greater flexibility as to where you go, you can hire your own boat and *kaido* owners can usually be found trawling for fares. Explain to the *kaido* owner where you want to go, how long you want to spend there and which way you wish to return. They don't speak much English, but if you point to the islands on Map pp50–1 in this book, they may get the picture. The usual price for this kind of trip is about \$120 on weekdays, more on the weekend.

Sai Kung Town

Originally a fishing village, Sai Kung Town (Map p127) is now more of a leafy suburb for people working in Kowloon and on Hong Kong Island, but it still has some of the feeling of a port. Fishing boats put in an occasional appearance, and down on the waterfront there's a string of seafood restaurants that draw customers from all around the territory.

Sai Kung Town is an excellent base for hikes into the surrounding countryside. A *kaido* trip to one or more of the little off-shore islands and their secluded beaches is also recommended (see boxed text, opposite). Windsurfing equipment can be hired from the **Windsurfing Centre** (☎ 2792 5605; ☎ from 9.30am–6pm Sat & Sun, call ahead weekdays) at Sha Ha (off Map p127), just north of Sai Kung Town. Bus 94, heading for the pier at **Wong Shek** and the springboard for **Tap Mun Chau**, will drop you off. Or you can walk there from town in about 15 minutes.

Hebe Haven

The very small bay of Hebe Haven (Map pp50–1), which Cantonese speakers call Pak Sha Wan

(White Sand Bay), is home to the **Hebe Haven Yacht Club** (☎ 2719 9682, 2719 3673; www.hhyc.org.hk), which has a large fleet of yachts and other pleasure craft all but choking Marina Cove.

To swim at Trio Beach, opposite the marina, catch a sampan from Hebe Haven to the long, narrow peninsula called Ma Lam Wat; along the way you'll pass a small Tin Hau temple on a spit of land jutting out to the south. The beach is excellent and the sampan trip should only cost a few dollars. You can also walk to the peninsula from Sai Kung Town; it's about 4km.

LIONS NATURE EDUCATION CENTRE

Map pp50–1
☎ 2792 2234; Pak Kong; www.hknature.net/Inec/eng/; admission free; ☎ 9.30am–4.30pm Wed–Mon; ♿ 92

This 34-hectare attraction, 2km northwest of Hebe Haven and just off Hiram's Hwy, is Hong Kong's first nature education centre and comprises everything from an arboretum, a medicinal plants garden and an insectarium, to a mineral and rocks corner and a shell house. We love the Dragonfly Pond, which attracts up to a quarter of the more than 100 dragonfly species found in

| EATING | | (p197) |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Chuen Kee Seafood Restaurant | 6 B3 | |
| Dia | 7 B2 | |
| Honeymoon Dessert | 8 A2 | |
| Jaspa's | 9 B2 | |
| Pepperoni's Pizza | 10 A2 | |
| Sauce | 11 B2 | |

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|-------------------------|-------|--------|
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| The Duke | 13 B2 | |
| Xtreme Bar & Restaurant | 14 A2 | |

| INFORMATION | | |
|-------------|------|--|
| HSBC | 1 A2 | |
| Post Office | 2 B2 | |

| SIGHTS | | (pp126–8) |
|--|------|-----------|
| High Island Reservoir Doloose | 3 B2 | |
| Jockey Club Kau Sai Chau Public Golf Course Pier | 4 C2 | |
| Sampan Hire | 5 B3 | |

| TRANSPORT | | (pp269–86) |
|---------------------------|-------|------------|
| Bus Terminus | 15 C2 | |
| Hong Kong & Kowloon Taxis | 16 C2 | |
| Maxicab/Minibus Terminus | 17 C2 | |
| New Territories Taxis | 18 C2 | |

TRANSPORT – SAI KUNG PENINSULA

Sai Kung Town

Bus From Sai Kung Town bus 299 heads to Sha Tin KCR East Rail, bus 92 runs to Diamond Hill and Choi Hung, bus 96R (Sunday and public holidays) heads to Wong Shek, Hebe Haven, and Choi Hung and Diamond Hill MTR stations, while bus 792M calls at Tseung Kwan O and Tiu Keng Leng MTR stations. Bus 94 goes to Wong Shek.

Green Minibus From Sai Kung Town, buses 1A, 1M and 1S (12.30am to 6.10am) go to Hebe Haven and Choi Hung MTR station.

Pak Tam Chung

Bus No 94 from Sai Kung Town.

Hoi Ha

Green minibus Minibus 7 makes the run from Sai Kung Town daily, with the first departure at 8.45am and the last at 6.45pm. A taxi from there will cost around \$100.

Hong Kong. You can reach the centre on bus 92 from Diamond Hill MTR and Choi Hung, bus 96R on Sunday and holidays from Diamond Hill to Wong Shek Pier, and green minibus 1A from Choi Hung.

Pak Tam Chung

Pak Tam Chung (Map pp50–1) is the start of the MacLehose Trail (p226).

SAI KUNG COUNTRY PARK VISITOR CENTRE

Map pp50–1

☎ 2792 7365; Tai Mong Tsai Rd; 🕒 9.30am–4.30pm Wed–Mon; 🚌 94

While you're in Pak Tam Chung, visit the Sai Kung Country Park Visitor Centre, which is to the south of the village, just by the road from Sai Kung. It has excellent maps, photographs and displays of the area's geology, fauna and flora, as well as its traditional villages and Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park.

SHEUNG YIU FOLK MUSEUM

Map pp50–1

☎ 2792 6365; Pak Tam Chung Nature Trail; admission free; 🕒 9am–4pm Wed–Mon; 🚌 94

This museum is a leisurely 20-minute walk from Pak Tam Chung south along the 1km-long Pak Tam Chung Nature Trail. The museum

is part of a restored Hakka village typical of those found here in the 19th century. The village was founded about 150 years ago by the Wong clan, which built a kiln to make bricks. In the whitewashed dwellings, piggins and cattle sheds, all surrounded by a high wall and watchtower to guard against raids by pirates, are farm implements, objects of daily use, furnishings and Hakka clothing.

Hoi Ha, Wong Shek, Chek Keng & Tai Long

There are several rewarding hikes at the northern end of the Sai Kung Peninsula starting in the little coves such as Hoi Ha, Wong Shek and Chek Keng, but the logistics can be a bit tricky. Be sure to take along a copy of the *Sai Kung & Clearwater Bay Countryside Series* map or Universal Publications' *Tseung Kwan O, Sai Kung, Clearwater Bay* (p295).

HOI HA WAN MARINE PARK

Map pp50–1

☎ 1823 hotline; Hoi Ha; 🚌 green minibus 7

A rewarding 6km walk in the area starts from the village of Hoi Ha (literally 'Under the Sea'), on the coast of Hoi Ha Bay, now part of the Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park, a 260-hectare protected area blocked off by concrete booms from the Tolo Channel and closed to fishing vessels. It's one of the few places in Hong Kong waters where coral still grows in abundance and is a favourite with divers. You can visit anytime, but 1½-hour tours of the marine park are available in English at 10.30am and 2.15pm on Saturday, Sunday and public holidays. Be aware that you must register with the **Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation Department** (AFCD; ☎ 1823) in advance, though.

TAP MUN CHAU

Eating p197

Tap Mun Chau (Map pp50–1), which translates as 'Grass Island', is very isolated and retains an old-world fishing village atmosphere. If you have the time (count on a full day), it's definitely worth the trip, and you will be re-

TRANSPORT – TAP MUN CHAU

Ferry Depart from Ma Liu Shui near University KCR East Rail station.

warded with a feeling that's hard to come by in Hong Kong: isolation. The sailing is particularly scenic from Wong Shek, as the boat cruises through the narrow Tai Tan Hoi Hap – more reminiscent of a fjord in Norway than a harbour in Hong Kong.

Delightfully sleepy Tap Mun Chau doesn't have accommodation, but you may get away with pitching a tent. There's only one restaurant on the island (p198), but there are shops selling snacks and drinks. For ferry routes, schedules and fares for Tap Mun Chau, see p274. The island is found off the northeast coast of the New Territories, where the Tolo Channel empties into Mirs Bay, which is Tai Pang Wan in Cantonese. Only Tung Ping Chau to the northeast in Mirs Bay is more remote.

As you approach the pier at Tap Mun village, you'll see fishing boats bobbing about in the small bay and, to the south, people working on fish-breeding rafts. Tap Mun village is noted for its **Tin Hau temple**, which was built during the reign of Emperor Kang Xi of the Qing dynasty in the late 17th or early 18th century and is northeast from where the boat docks. The Tin Hau birthday festival in late April/early May (p17) is big here, although most of the participants come from elsewhere in Hong Kong. Part of the temple is devoted to the god of war Kwan Tai (or Kwan Yu).

Other attractions here include an easy (and signposted) walk northward to **Mau Ping Shan** (125m), the island's highest point, a windy pebble beach on the southeastern shore and an odd stone formation called **Balanced Rock**, a couple of hundred metres south of the beach.

TUNG PING CHAU

Tung Ping Chau (Map pp50–1), sitting in splendid isolation in Mirs Bay in the far northeast of the New Territories, is as remote as it gets in Hong Kong. The distance from Ma Liu Shui to the southwest, from where the ferry serving the island departs, is 25km.

A remote, crescent-shaped island, it is part of **Plover Cove Country Park** (☎ 2498 9326; 🕒 9.30am–4pm Sat, Sun & public holidays). The island and the waters around it, which teem with sea life (especially corals), form Hong Kong's fourth marine park.

At one time the island, which is called Tung Ping Chau (East Peace Island) to distinguish it from Peng Chau (same pronunciation in Cantonese) near Lantau, supported a population of 3000, but now it is virtually deserted.

TRANSPORT – TUNG PING CHAU

Ferry Depart from Ma Liu Shui near University KCR East Rail station.

There are a couple of tiny settlements on the northeastern side, including Sha Tau, where you'll find a food stall.

Tung Ping Chau is just 12km from the mainland's Daya Bay nuclear power station and has Hong Kong's only radiation shelter, at Tai Tong just north of the pier.

For ferry routes, schedules and fares for Tung Ping Chau, see p274.

Tung Ping Chau's highest point is only about 40m, but it has unusual rock layers in its cliffs, which glitter after the rain. The island has some sandy beaches on its east coast that are good for swimming. The longest one, to the northeast, is **Cheung Sha Wan**. There is a small **Tin Hau temple** on the southwestern coast of the island, and some small caves dotting the cliffs. A good 6km walking trail encircles the whole island.

CLEARWATER BAY PENINSULA

Clearwater Bay Peninsula (Map pp50–1) is a wonderfully untamed and rough-contoured backdrop to urban Hong Kong – at least on its eastern shore. It is wedged in by Junk Bay (Tseung Kwan O) to the west and Clearwater Bay (Tsing Sui Wan) sitting to the east; Joss House Bay (Tai Miu Wan) lies to the south. Junk Bay is now the site of Tseung Kwan O, a New Town built on reclaimed land with a growing population of 325,000 and a sixth MTR line, but the eastern coastline remains fairly unscarred and offers some exceptional walks, fine beaches and one of the most important temples dedicated to Tin Hau on the South China coast.

Clearwater Bay Peninsula is on the southeastern edge of the New Territories. The country park is divided into two parts: a long and narrow finger-shaped section stretching from Joss House Bay in the south almost to Port Shelter, and a half-moon-shaped section to the east between Lung Ha Wan and Clearwater Bay.

BEACHES

Map pp50–1

Bus 91 passes **Silverstrand Beach** (Ngan Sin Wan) north of Hang Hau before reaching Tai Au Mun; if you wish you can get off at

TRANSPORT – CLEARWATER BAY PENINSULA

Bus Bus 91 runs between Diamond Hill and Choi Hung MTR stations to Tai Au Mun.

Green Minibus Bus 103M runs between Tseung Kwan O MTR station and Clearwater Bay. Bus 103 runs to Kwun Tong ferry pier, and bus 16 to Po Lam MTR station.

Silverstrand and go for a dip. If you're heading for Lung Ha Wan, get off the bus at Tai Au Mun village and start walking. From Sai Kung, take bus 92 to where Hiram's Hwy and Clearwater Bay Rd meet and change there to bus 91.

From Tai Au Mun, Tai Au Mun Rd leads south to two fine, sandy beaches: **Clearwater Bay First Beach** and, a bit further southwest, **Clearwater Bay Second Beach**. In summer, try to go during the week, as both beaches can get very crowded on the weekend.

CLEARWATER BAY COUNTRY PARK

Map pp50–1

The heart of the country park is **Tai Au Mun**, from where trails head off in various direc-

tions, though the **Clearwater Bay Country Park Visitor Centre** (☎ 2719 0032; 🕒 9.30am–4.30pm Wed–Mon) is to the southeast in Tai Hang Tun. You can take the small road (Lung Ha Wan Rd) north from Tai Au Mun to the beach at **Lung Ha Wan** (Lobster Bay) and return via the 2.3km **Lung Ha Wan Country Trail**.

TAI MIU TEMPLE

Map pp50–1

☎ 2519 9155; 🕒 8am–5pm

Further south along Tai Au Mun Rd is this ancient temple dedicated to Tin Hau. It is said to have been first built in the 13th century by two brothers from Fujian in gratitude to the goddess for having spared their lives during a storm at sea. It is particularly busy during the Tin Hau birthday festival in late April/early May (p17).

Just behind the temple is a **Song-dynasty rock carving** dating from 1274 and recording both the visit of a superintendent of the Salt Administration and the history of two temples in Joss House Bay. It is the oldest inscription extant in Hong Kong.

From Tai Miu, hikers can follow the 6.6km-long **High Junk Peak Country Trail** up to **Tin Ha Shan** (273m) and then continue on to **High Junk Peak** (Tiu Yu Yung; 344m) before heading eastward back to Tai Au Mun.

OUTLYING ISLANDS

The territory of Hong Kong (Map pp50–1) consists of 234 islands, in addition to Hong Kong Island. Together these sparsely populated 'Outlying Islands' are the territory's bolt holes and its playgrounds.

Among the magnets that attract local day-trippers and foreign visitors alike are country parks, with hundreds of kilometres of hiking trails, fresh(er) air and examples of some of the last remnants of traditional village life in Hong Kong. Explore them on a weekday and you're likely to have great expanses of these islands all to yourself.

Hong Kong's islands vary greatly in size, appearance and character. Many are little more than uninhabited rocks poking out of the South China Sea, while Lantau is almost twice the size of Hong Kong Island.

From the tranquil lanes of Cheung Chau and Peng Chau to the monasteries of Lantau and the waterfront seafood restaurants of Lamma, Hong Kong's islands offer a world of peace and quiet along with a host of sights and activities. The islands are a colourful encyclopaedia of animal and plant life – a boon for nature lovers. What's more, some of Hong Kong's best beaches punctuate their rocky coasts.

Poisonous snakes are a rare but significant hazard to be aware of on Lamma and Lantau. See p292 for more details.

The islands listed here are all easily accessible from Hong Kong Island daily, and Cheung Chau and Lantau can be reached from Kowloon on the weekend as well. For details on routes, schedule and fares, see p274.

Because the tiny islands of Tap Mun Chau and Tung Ping Chau are best reached from the New Territories, they are covered on p128 and p129.

LAMMA

Drinking & Nightlife p212; Eating p198; Sleeping p265
With no roads or cars, leafy, low-rise Lamma (Map p132) makes a perfect place to find some space, peace and quiet. At 13.6 sq km, the territory's third-largest island after Lantau and Hong Kong Island, Lamma is home to an estimated 5000 fisherfolk, farmers and foreigners, and the hills above the main village, Yung Shue Wan, are strewn with small homes and apartment blocks. Known mainly for the seafood restaurants at Sok Kwu Wan, the island's 'second' village, Lamma also has some good beaches, excellent hiking and lively pubs.

Perhaps the most interesting way for visitors to see a good portion of the island is to follow the 4km-long **Family Trail** that runs between Yung Shue Wan and Sok Kwu Wan. This takes a little over an hour, and you can return to Central by ferry from Soke Kwu Wan. Those with extra time should carry on to Tung O Wan, an idyllic bay some 30 minutes further south at the bottom of a steep hill, and perhaps return to Sok Kwu Wan via Mo Tat Wan.

Lamma is the closest inhabited island to Hong Kong Island; its northernmost tip is only 3km across the East Lamma Channel from Ap Lei Chau in Aberdeen. There are two main settlements on the island: Yung Shue

top picks

OUTLYING ISLANDS

- Tian Tan Buddha via cable car (p137)
- Cheung Chau's temples and street scenes (p142)
- Tai O's old-world atmosphere (p138)
- Lamma cross-island walk (left)
- Pink dolphin-spotting (p148)

Wan to the northwest and Sok Kwu Wan on the east coast of the island.

There's a **HSBC branch** (☎ 2982 0787; 19 Main St) and a **post office** (3 Main St) in Yung Shue Wan. Bicycles are available for rent from **Hoi Nam Gift & Bicycle Shop** (☎ 2982 0128, 9364 4941; Ground fl, 37 Sha Po Old Village; per hr/day \$20/60; 🕒 11am–7pm) in Yung Shue Wan on the main path to Sok Kwu Wan.

YUNG SHUE WAN

Map p132

🚢 **Yung Shue Wan ferry**

Though it's the larger of the island's two main villages, Yung Shue Wan (Banyan Tree Bay) remains a small place, with little more than a main street following the curve of the bay. Plastic was the big industry here at one time, but now restaurants, bars and

other tourism-related businesses are the main employers. There is a small **Tin Hau temple** dating from the late 19th century at the southern end of Yung Shue Wan.

SOK KWU WAN [Map p132](#)

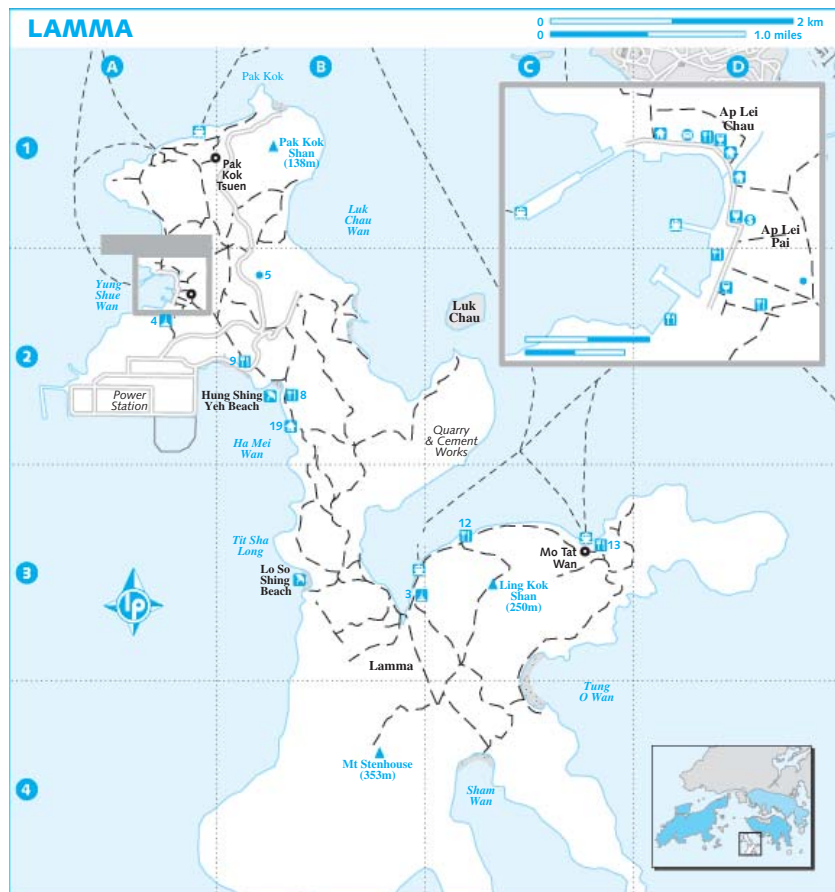
Sok Kwu Wan ferry

If you continue on the Family Trail you'll encounter another pavilion on a ridge, this

TRANSPORT – LAMMA

Ferry Yung Shue Wan pier to pier 4 of Outlying Islands ferry terminal in Central, Pak Kok Tsuen (Lamma) and Aberdeen; Sok Kwu Wan pier to pier 4 of Outlying Islands ferry terminal in Central, Man Tat Wan (Lamma) and Aberdeen.

time looking down onto Sok Kwu Wan (Picnic Bay), with its many fine restaurants, and fishing boats and rafts bobbing in the bay. Although still a small settlement, Sok Kwu Wan supports at least a dozen waterfront seafood restaurants that are popular with boaters. The small harbour at Sok Kwu Wan is filled with rafts from which cages are suspended and fish farmed. If entering Sok Kwu Wan from the south (ie from the Family Trail linking it with Yung Shue Wan), you'll pass three so-called 'kamikaze caves', grottoes measuring 10m wide and 30m deep and built by the occupying Japanese forces to house motorboats wired with explosives to disrupt Allied shipping during WWII. They were never used. Further on and near the entrance to Sok Kwu Wan is a totally renovated **Tin Hau temple** dating back to 1826.



LAMMA'S ENDANGERED TURTLES

Sham Wan has traditionally been the one beach in the whole of Hong Kong where endangered green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), one of three species of sea turtle found in Hong Kong waters, still struggle onto the sand to lay their eggs from early June to the end of August.

Female green turtles, which can grow to a metre in length and weigh 140kg, take between 20 and 30 years to reach sexual maturity and always head back to the same beach where they were born to lay their eggs, which takes place every two to six years. Fearing that Sham Wan would catch the eye of housing-estate developers and that the turtles would swim away forever, the area was declared a Site of Special Scientific Interest and closed. It is patrolled by the Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation Department (AFCD) from June to October. Some eight turtles are known to have nested here since 1997 and some are now being tracked by satellite.

As well as developers, a major hurdle faced by the long-suffering turtles is the appetite of Lamma locals for their eggs. In 1994 three turtles laid about 200 eggs, which were promptly harvested and consumed by villagers. Several years later villagers sold eggs to Japanese tourists for \$100 each. There is now a \$50,000 fine levied on anyone caught on the beach during the nesting season. Anyone taking, possessing or attempting to sell one of the eggs faces a fine of \$100,000 and one year in prison.

Gwài-dán, or 'turtle egg', by the way, is one of the rudest things you can call a Cantonese-speaking person.

WIND TURBINE [Map p132](#)

Standing in elegant contrast to that CO₂ belching, coal-fired power station, Lamma's giant Wind Turbine, close to the top of the ridge just south east of Tai Peng village, makes a stirring sight. There's nothing to actually do here but admire its feathered blades scything the breeze and to take in the dramatic backdrop of freighters setting sail far below, with Hong Kong Island looming in the background. To reach it follow the paths from Yung Shue Wan up to Tai Peng old village and turn right once you hit the concrete roadway linking the power station with Pak Kok.

HUNG SHING YEH BEACH [Map p132](#)

Yung Shue Wan ferry

About a 25-minute walk southeast from the Yung Shue Wan ferry pier, Hung Shing Yeh Beach is the most popular beach on Lamma. But arrive early in the morning or on a weekday and you'll probably find it deserted. The beach is protected by a shark

net and has toilets, showers and changing rooms, but the view of the power station across the bay takes some getting used to. There are a few restaurants and drinks stands nearby – the latter open on the weekend only, except in summer – as well as the **Concerto Inn** (p200), a hotel that also serves so-so Western food.

LO SO SHING BEACH [Map p132](#)

Yung Shue Wan ferry

If you continue south from Hung Shing Yeh Beach, the path climbs steeply until it reaches a **Chinese-style pavilion** near the top of the hill. From this vantage point, it becomes obvious that the island is mostly hilly grassland and large boulders, though more and more trees are being planted. You will pass a second pavilion offering splendid views out to sea; from here a path leads from the Family Trail down to Lo So Shing Beach, the most beautiful on Lamma. The beach is not very big, but it has a nice cover of shade trees at the back for a break from the sun.

LAMMA

INFORMATION

HSBC 匯豐銀行 1 D1
Post Office 郵局 2 D1

SIGHTS

Tin Hau Temple 天后廟 3 B3
Tin Hau Temple 天后廟 4 A2
Wind Turbine 風車 5 B2

EATING

Bookworm Café 南島書蟲 6 D2
Concerto Inn 浪濤軒 (see 19)

Delhi Lamma Café 7 D2
Han Lok Yuen 樂園酒家 8 B2
Kin Hing Tofu Dessert
建興阿婆豆腐花 9 B2

RESTAURANTS

Man Fung Seafood
Restaurant 10 D1
Pizza Milano 11 D2
Rainbow Seafood Restaurant 12 C3
Tai Yuen Restaurant (see 12)
The Bay 13 C3

DRINKING

Diesel's Bar 14 D2

Fountainhead Drinking Bar 15 D1
Island Society Bar 16 D1

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES (p131)

Hoi Nam Gift & Bicycle Shop
凱風單車店 17 D2

SLEEPING (pp265–6)

Bali Holiday Resort 優閒渡假屋 18 D1
Concerto Inn 浪濤軒 19 B2
Jackson Property Agency
錫煌地產代理公司 20 D1
Man Lai Wah Hotel
文麗華酒店 21 D1

SNAKES ALIVE

Take care when bushwalking, particularly on Lamma and Lantau Islands. Poisonous snakes, the most common being the Bamboo Pit Viper, are a hazard, although they will not attack unless surprised or provoked. Go straight to a public hospital if bitten; private doctors do not stock antivenom. Other fauna to be aware of in the New Territories are wild boars, which can be hugely dangerous if they choose to attack. Steer well clear if you spot one and back off slowly if you've already gotten too close.

MO TAT WAN Map p132

The clean and relatively uncrowded beach at Mo Tat Wan is a mere 20-minute walk east of Sok Kwu Wan along a coastal path. Mo Tat Wan is OK for swimming, but has no lifeguards. You can also reach here by *kaido* from Aberdeen, which continues on to Sok Kwu Wan.

SHAM WAN Map p132

Sham Wan (Deep Bay) is another beautiful bay to the southwest that can be reached from Tung O Wan by clambering over the hills. A trail on the left about 200m up the hill from Tung O leads south to a small and sandy beach. Don't come here from June to October, when Hong Kong's endangered green turtles nest (see boxed text, p133).

TUNG O WAN Map p132

A detour to this small and secluded bay, with a long stretch of sandy beach, while walking to Sok Kwu Wan from Yung Shue Wan or from Sok Kwu Wan itself, is highly recommended. Just before the Tin Hau temple at the entrance to Sok Kwu Wan, follow the signposted path to the right southward, up and over the hill to the tiny village of **Tung O**. The walk takes about 30 minutes over a rugged landscape, and the first half is a fairly strenuous climb up steps and along a path. Don't do this walk at night unless it's a full moon, as there are only a few street lights at the start in Sok Kwu Wan.

If coming from Mo Tat Wan, take the trail immediately to the west of the pavilion above the beach and follow the signposted path up the hill and through bamboo groves and fields. It takes about 25 minutes to reach the sleepy village of **Yung Shue Ha** on the fringes of the bay. All of the Chinese

who live there are from the same clan and have the surname of Chow. A member of this clan, Chow Yun Fat, the bullet-proof star of many John Woo films, was born and raised in Tung O.

The beach at Tung O Wan is a secluded and unspoiled stretch of sand, punctuated by chunks of driftwood and other flotsam.

LANTAU

Drinking & Nightlife p213; **Eating** p200; **Sleeping** p266
Hong Kong's largest island Lantau (Cantonese for 'broken head'; **Map p136**) is also known by the Chinese as Tai Yue Shan or 'Big Island Mountain' – a name that refers both to its size and elevation. It is home to some of the region's best and most remote beaches, wilderness trails, monasteries and monuments, including the giant Tian Tan Buddha. Part of its appeal is its generous dimensions, ruggedly beautiful terrain and small population.

It is home to about 100,000 people, yet at 144 sq km, it is almost twice the size of Hong Kong Island. Its highest point, Lantau Peak (Fung Wong Shan; 934m), is almost double the height of Victoria Peak. More than half of the surface area – 78.5 sq km, in fact – is designated country park and there are several superb mountain trails, including the 70km Lantau Trail (p226), which passes over both Lantau Peak and Sunset Peak (869m).

Lantau is the last inhabited island west of Hong Kong Island; next stop is Macau and the Zhuhai SEZ. Lantau has many villages, but the main settlements dot the southern coast. From east to west they are: Mui Wo, the 'capital' and the place where most of the ferries dock; Pui O and Tong Fuk along South Lantau Rd; and Tai O on the west coast. The New Town of Tung Chung is on the north coast and accessible from Mui Wo by buses that climb steep Tung Chung Rd. Discovery Bay, a self-contained 'bedroom community' to the northeast, can be reached from Mui Wo by ferry. Not everyone on Lantau resides here of their own accord; the island is home to three prisons.

Rock carvings discovered at Shek Pik on the southwestern coast of Lantau suggest that the island was inhabited as early as the Bronze Age, 3000 years ago, well before the arrival of the Han Chinese; a stone circle uncovered at Fan Lau may date from Neolithic times. The last Song-dynasty emperor passed through here in the 13th century while fleeing the Mongol invaders. He is believed to

have held court in the Tung Chung Valley to the north, which takes its name from a local hero who gave up his life for the emperor. Tung Chung is still worshipped by the Hakka people of Lantau, who believe he can predict the future.

Like Cheung Chau, Lantau was once a base for pirates and smugglers, and a trading post for the British long before they showed any interest in Hong Kong Island.

There are some interesting traditional villages, such as Tai O on the west coast; several important religious sites, including the Po Lin Monastery and the adjacent Tian Tan Buddha, the largest outdoor Buddha statue in the world; and some excellent beaches, including Cheung Sha, the longest in Hong Kong.

Until the Lantau Link, the combined road and rail transport connection between Kowloon and Lantau, opened in 1997, the island was accessible only by ferry. That's still the most popular and enjoyable way to go, but today you can reach the island from the rest of the territory by MTR, the Airport Express, a fleet of buses and even by taxi.

HSBC (**Map p139**; ☎ 2984 8271; Mui Wo Ferry Pier Rd) has a branch in Mui Wo and there's an **HSBC ATM** (Tai O Market St) in Tai O, which you'll see as

you cross the footbridge from the mainland to the island. The main **post office** (**Map p139**; Ngan Kwong Wan Rd) is a short distance west of the footbridge crossing the Silver River in Mui Wo.

Bicycles are available for hire (\$10 per hour and \$25 per day including overnight) at two central locations a short distance from the ferry pier in Mui Wo: **Friendly Bicycle Shop** (**Map p139**; ☎ 2984 2278; Ground fl, Shop 12, Mui Wo Centre, 1 Ngan Wan Rd; ☎ 10am-8pm Wed-Mon), just opposite Wellcome supermarket, and **Bike Shop** (**Map p139**; ☎ 2984 2002; Ground fl, Shop B, Silver Centre, 10 Mui Wo Ferry Pier Rd; ☎ 10.30am-9pm). They can also be hired from two **bike kiosks** (**Map p139**; ☎ 2984 7500, 2984 8232) near the Silvermine Beach Hotel in Mui Wo and from several in Pui O village.

NGONG PING Map p136

🚗 2 from Mui Wo, 21 from Tai O, 23 from Tung Chung, or cable car

Perched 500m up in the western hills of Lantau is the Ngong Ping Plateau, a major drawcard for Hong Kong day-trippers and foreign visitors alike, especially since 1993, when one of the world's largest statues of Buddha was unveiled here.

TRANSPORT – LANTAU

Ferry Mui Wo: Major services from Central leave from pier 6 of the Outlying Islands ferry terminal. Ferries also depart from Chi Ma Wan (also on Lantau), Cheung Chau and Peng Chau.

Chi Ma Wan: Served by the inter-island ferry from Mui Wo, Cheung Chau and Peng Chau.

Tai O: Reached by the service that operates from Tuen Mun in the New Territories via Sha Lo Wan and Tung Chung (both Lantau).

Tung Chung: Reached by a regular service from Tuen Mun. It's also served by the less-frequent service that comes from Tai O and Sha Lo Wan (both Lantau) before going on to Tuen Mun (or vice versa).

Bus Mui Wo: Served by bus 1 from Tai O (from the bus terminus at the end of Tai O Rd), bus 2 from Ngong Ping, bus 3M from Tung Chung (main bus terminus by the MTR station).

Ngong Ping: Other than the cable car the best way to get here is on bus 2 from Mui Wo (opposite the ferry pier) or bus 23 from Tung Chung (main bus terminus by the MTR station).

Tai O: Reached on bus 1 from Mui Wo (opposite the ferry pier), bus 11 from Tung Chung (main bus terminus by the MTR station) or bus 21 from Ngong Ping.

Tung Chung: Served by bus 3M from Mui Wo (opposite the ferry pier), bus 11 from Tai O (from the bus terminus at the end of Tai O Rd) and bus 23 from Ngong Ping.

All buses listed above run along some, or all of, South Lantau Rd, the junction with Tung Chung Rd being the point at which the bus will join or leave the route.

Taxi Telephone the call service on ☎ 2984 1328 or 2984 1368. Sample fares to Ngong Ping and the Tian Tan Buddha from Mui Wo and Tung Chung/Tai O/Hong Kong International Airport are \$125/45/145.

MTR Tung Chung station is at the end of the line of the same name.

Airport Express Airport station at Chek Lap Kok.

LANTAU

| | | |
|--|------------|-----------|
| SIGHTS | (pp134-42) | (p213) |
| Bronze Age Rock Carvings | 1 C4 | |
| Hau Wong Temple | 2 C2 | (p224) |
| Hong Kong Disneyland | 3 F1 | |
| Kwan Tai Temple | 4 B3 | (pp266-8) |
| Lo Hon Monastery | 5 C3 | |
| Lung Tai Ng Garden | 6 B3 | |
| Ngong Ping 360 Cable Car | 7 C3 | |
| Po Lin Monastery | 8 C3 | |
| Po Lin Monastery | 9 C3 | |
| Shek Pik Prison | 10 C4 | |
| Tian Tan Buddha | 11 E2 | |
| Trappist Monastery | 12 E2 | |
| Tung Chung Battery | 13 C2 | |
| Tung Chung Fort | 14 E2 | |
| EATING | (pp200-1) | |
| Discovery Bay Plaza | 15 E2 | |
| Flying Par Gallery | 16 E2 | |
| Hemingway's | 17 C3 | |
| Honeymoon Dessert | 18 D3 | |
| Ooh La La | 19 D3 | |
| Po Lin Vegetarian Restaurant | 20 E2 | |
| Steep Restaurant | 21 E2 | |
| DRINKING | | |
| JK's Club | 22 E2 | |
| SPORTS & ACTIVITIES | | |
| Discovery Bay Golf Club | 23 D4 | |
| SLEEPING | | |
| Hongkong Bank Foundation SG Davis Hostel | 24 C1 | |
| Jockey Club Wong Tung Wan Hostel | 25 D3 | |
| Long Coast Seaports | 26 D3 | |
| Regal Airport Hotel | 27 C1 | |
| Treasure Island on Lantau | 28 D3 | |

Po Lin (Precious Lotus; www.plm.org.hk/blcs/en; ☎ 9am-6pm) is a huge Buddhist monastery and temple complex that was originally built in 1924. Today it is a fairground as much as a religious retreat, attracting many visitors. Most of the buildings you'll see on arrival are new, with the older, simpler ones tucked away behind them. The 5.7km **Ngong Ping 360** (www.np360.com.hk; adult/concession one way \$58/28/45, return \$88/45/68; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-6.30pm Sat & Sun, 9am-6.30pm certain holidays) is a cable car linking Ngong Ping with the centre of Tung Chung (downhill and to the north). The attraction was shut after a 2007 accident, but should have reopened by the time you read this following safety reviews and upgrades.

The ride is well worth taking, offering spectacular views over the airport as it transports you from the high-rise apartments of Tung Chung to the more rural landscapes of Lantau. The lower station is just opposite the Tung Chung MTR station; the upper station is at the new 1.5-hectare **Ngong Ping Village** just west of the monastery complex. It includes several themed attractions: **Walking with Buddha** and the **Monkey's Tale Theatre**, both of which cost \$35/18/28 for adults/concession, and the **Ngong Ping Tea House**. A variety of packages combine the cable-car rides with entrance tickets to the attractions. The journey takes 20 to 25 minutes, each glassed-in gondola carries 17 passengers and the system can move up to 3500 people per hour.

On a hill above the monastery sits the **Tian Tan Buddha** (☎ 10am-6pm), a seated representation of Lord Gautama some 23m high (or 26.4m with the lotus), or just under 34m if you include the podium. There are bigger Buddha statues elsewhere – notably the 71m-high Grand Buddha at Leshan in China's Sichuan province – but apparently these are not seated, outdoors or made of bronze. It weighs 202 tonnes, by the way. The large bell within the Buddha is controlled by computer and rings 108 times during the day to symbolise escape from what Buddhism terms the '108 troubles of mankind'.

The podium is composed of separate chambers on three different levels. On the first level are six statues of Bodhisattvas, each of which weighs around two tonnes. On the second level is a small **museum** (☎ 2985 5248; ☎ 10am-6pm) containing

oil paintings and ceramic plaques of the Buddha's life and teachings. At busy times priority entry is given to those with meal tickets from the monastery's vegetarian restaurant, **Po Lin Vegetarian Restaurant** (p201).

It's well worth climbing the 260 steps for a closer look at the statue and surrounding views. The Buddha's Birthday (p17), a public holiday celebrated in late April or early May, is a lively time to visit, when thousands make the pilgrimage. Visitors are requested to observe some decorum in dress and behaviour. It is forbidden to bring meat or alcohol into the grounds.

A 2.5km concrete footpath to the left of the Buddha statue leads to the **Lantau Tea Garden**, the only one in Hong Kong. The tea bushes are pretty sparse and not worth a detour, but the garden is on the way to the **Hongkong Bank Foundation SG Davis Hostel** (p249) and Lantau Peak, and there are tea leaves for sale.

LANTAU PEAK Map p136
Known as Fung Wong Shan (Phoenix Mountain) in Cantonese, this 934m-high peak is the second-highest in Hong Kong after Tai Mo Shan (957m) in the New Territories. The view from the summit is absolutely stunning, and on a clear day it is possible to see Macau and Zhuhai, some 65km to the west.

If you're hiking the length or the first several stages of the **Lantau Trail** (p226) to Ngong Ping, you'll cross the peak. If you want to just climb up from Ngong Ping, the easiest and most comfortable way to make the climb is to spend the night at the SG Davis Hostel (p249), get up at the crack of dawn and pick up the signposted trail at the hostel that runs southeast to the peak. Many climbers get up earlier to reach the summit for sunrise; take a torch and wear an extra layer of clothes, as it can get pretty chilly at the top in the early hours, even in summer.

Another signposted trail leading east from the hostel will take you along the northern slopes of Lantau Peak to **Po Lam Monastery** at Tei Tong Tsai and then south through a valley leading to Tung Chung, from where you can catch the MTR back to Kowloon or Hong Kong or bus 3M to Mui Wo. This charming walk – if you ignore the airport to the north – also takes you past **Lo Hon Monastery** as well as Tung Chung **Fort and Battery** (p141).

top picks

HONG KONG FOR CHILDREN, FROM A TO Z

As well as Hong Kong's two theme parks, Ocean Park (p82) and Disneyland (p141), Hong Kong offers plenty of amazement for kids as well as adults:

- Avenue of the Stars evening lightshow (p95)
- Beaches (p223)
- Cityplaza's Ice Palace skating rink (p229)
- Hong Kong Heritage Museum (p125)
- Junk and sampan trips in Aberdeen Harbour (p83)
- Kowloon Park (p91)
- Noonday Gun (p73)
- Peak Tram (p283)
- Space Museum & Theatre (p91)
- Star Ferry (p273)
- Tsim Sha Tsui East Promenade (p95)
- Zoological & Botanical Gardens (p58)

LUNG TSAI NG GARDEN Map p136

🚶 1 from Mui Wo, 11 from Tung Chung, 21 from Ngong Ping

This magical garden southwest of Ngong Ping, with a lotus pond crossed by a rickety zigzag bridge, was built by a wealthy merchant in the 1930s in a small valley near where the village of Lung Tsai once stood. The site is rather derelict, but atmospheric nonetheless, and the gardens are in excellent condition. You can reach here via a water catchment path and trail from the Tai O Rd, a continuation of South Lantau Rd just west of Keung Shan. Alight from the bus after the Kwun Yam temple on Tai O Rd, which is about 2km past the turn-off for the Tian Tan Buddha. You'll see a country park sign and the start of the water catchment.

TAI O Map p136

🚶 1 from Mui Wo, 11 from Tung Chung, 21 from Ngong Ping

A century ago this mostly Tanka village on the west coast of Lantau was an important trading and fishing port, exporting salt and fish to China. As recently as the 1980s it traded in IIs (illegal immigrants) brought from China under cover of darkness by 'snakeheads' (smugglers in human cargo) in long narrow boats, sending back contraband such as refrigerators, radios and TVs to the mainland.

Today Tai O is in decline, except perhaps as a tourist destination. A few of the salt-pans still exist, but most have been filled in to build high-rise housing. Older people still make their living from duck farming, fishing, making the village's celebrated shrimp paste and processing salt fish, which you'll see (and smell) everywhere. It remains a popular place for locals to buy seafood – both fresh and dried.

Tai O is built partly on Lantau and partly on a tiny island about 15m from the shore. Until the mid-1990s the only way to cross was via a rope-tow ferry pulled by elderly Hakka women. That and the large number of sampans in the small harbour earned Tai O the nickname 'the Venice of Hong Kong'. Though the narrow iron Tai Chung footbridge now spans the canal, the rope-tow ferry is resurrected on some weekends and holidays: drop \$1 in the box as you disembark. There are also brief river boat tours (☎ 9629 4581, 9645 6652; per 15/25min \$10/20) departing from the footbridge.

Some of the traditional-style village houses still stand in the centre. A fire in 2000 destroyed many of Tai O's famed stilt houses on the waterfront, but when the government tried to raze the rest and relocate residents elsewhere, the move was strongly opposed. The few houses that escaped the fire remain. There are also a number of shanties, their corrugated-iron walls held in place by rope, and houseboats that haven't set sail for years – they'd capsize immediately if they tried.

The stilt houses and the local Kwan Tai temple dedicated to the god of war are on Kat Hing St. To reach them, cross the bridge from the mainland to the island, walk up Tai O Market St and go right at the Fook Moon Lam restaurant. There are a couple of other temples here, including an 18th-century one erected in honour of Hung Shing, patron of fisherman; it's on Shek Tsai Po St, about 600m west of the Fook Lam Moon restaurant.

SOUTH LANTAU RD Map p136

🚶 1 from Mui Wo & Tai O, 2 from Ngong Ping, 3 from Tung Chung

Just under 5km southwest of Mui Wo, Pui O is the first of several coastal villages along South Lantau Rd. Pui O has a decent beach, but as it's the closest one to Mui Wo it can get very crowded. The village has several restaurants, holiday flats galore and, in season, stalls renting bicycles. There's also

a decent restaurant right on Pui O Beach called Ooh La La! (p201).

Cheung Sha (Long Sand), at over 3km Hong Kong's longest beach, is divided into 'upper' and 'lower' sections; a trail over a hillock links the two. Upper Cheung Sha, with occasional good surf, is the prettier and longer stretch and boasts a modern complex with changing rooms, toilets, showers and a snack bar. Lower Cheung Sha village has a beachfront restaurant, Stoep Restaurant (p201). Long Coast Seaports (☎ 2980 3222; www.longcoast.hk; 29 Lower Cheung Sha Village; ☎ 10am-7pm) is a water-sports centre offering windsurfing, sea kayaking and wakeboarding. Prices vary widely but basic windsurfing costs from \$90/240/360 for an hour/half-day/day, while a single kayak rents for \$60/180 for an hour/half-day. Beach umbrellas are also available from \$50 a day. Some claim because of the Ventura effect on the wind from Tung Chung this is the best windsurfing in Hong Kong, especially from November to March. Long Coast also offers basic accommodation (p267).

The beach at Tong Fuk, the next village over from Cheung Sha, is not as nice, but the village has holiday flats, several shops

and a popular roadside barbecue restaurant called Gallery (p201). To the northwest is the not-so-scenic sprawl of Ma Po Ping Prison.

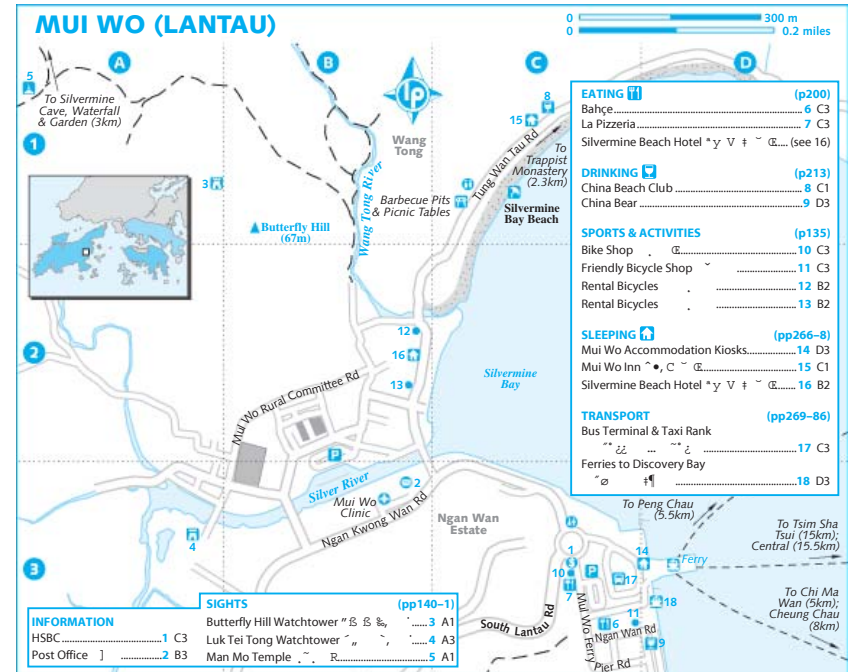
West of Tong Fuk, South Lantau Rd begins to climb the hills inland before crossing an enormous dam holding back the Shek Pik Reservoir, completed in 1963, which provides Lantau, Cheung Chau and parts of Hong Kong Island with drinking water. Just below the dam is the granddaddy of Lantau's trio of jails, Shek Pik Prison. Below the dam to the south but before the prison is another Bronze-Age rock carving unusual in that it is so far from the coastline.

The trail along the water-catchment area east of Shek Pik Reservoir, with picnic tables and barbecue pits, offers some of the easiest and most peaceful walking on Lantau. From here you can also pick up the switchback trail to Dog's Tooth Peak (539m), from where another trail heads north to Lantau Peak.

CHI MA WAN Map p136

🚶 Inter-island service from Mui Wo and Cheung Chau

Chi Ma Wan, the large peninsula south of Mui Wo that can be reached via the inter-island ferry, is a relatively remote part of



Lantau and an excellent area for hiking; just be sure to get a map (p295) as the trails are not always clearly defined or well marked.

The Chi Ma Wan ferry pier is on the northeast coast; the large complex just south of the pier is not a hostel but the **Chi Ma Wan Correctional Institution**. There's a decent beach to the south at **Tai Long Wan**. There's budget accommodation at the **Jockey Club Mong Tung Wan Hostel** (p267) on the peninsula's southwestern coast.

FAN LAU Map p136

Fan Lau (Divided Flow), a small peninsula on the southwestern tip of Lantau, has a couple of good beaches and the remains of **Fan Lau Fort**, built in 1729 to protect the channel between Lantau and the Pearl River estuary from pirates. It remained in operation until the end of the 19th century and was restored in 1985. The sea views from here are sterling.

To the southeast of the fort is an ancient **stone circle**. The origins and age of the circle are uncertain, but it probably dates from the Neolithic or early Bronze Age and may have been used in rituals.

The only way to reach Fan Lau is on foot. To get here from Tai O, walk south from the bus station for 250m and pick up stage No 7 of the coastal **Lantau Trail** (p226), a distance of about 8km. The trail then carries on to the northeast and Shek Pik for another 12km, where you can catch bus 1 back to Mui Wo.

TRAPPIST MONASTERY Map p136

☎ 2987 6292; Tai Shui Hang; 🚶 kaido from Peng Chau

Northeast of Mui Wo and south of Discovery Bay at Tai Shui Hang is the Roman Catholic Lady of Joy Abbey – better known as the Trappist Monastery. The monastery is known throughout Hong Kong for its cream-rich milk, sold in half-pint bottles everywhere, but, alas, the cows have been moved to the New Territories and Trappist Dairy Milk now comes from over the border in China.

The Trappists, a branch of the Cistercian order, were founded by a converted courtier at La Trappe in France in 1662 and gained a reputation as being one of the most austere religious communities in the Roman Catholic Church. The Lantau congregation was established at Beijing in the

19th century. All of the monks here now are local Chinese.

Trappist monks take a vow of absolute silence, and there are signs reminding visitors to keep radios and music players turned off and to speak in low tones. Give the guys a break; they're up at 3.15am and in bed by 8pm.

You can reach the monastery on foot by following a well-marked coastal trail from the northern end of Tung Wan Tau Rd in Mui Wo, but it's much easier to get here by *kaido* from Peng Chau, Lantau's little island neighbour to the west. For details, see p274.

MUI WO Map p139

📍 Lantau

Mui Wo (Plum Nest), Lantau's main settlement 'capital', is on Silvermine Bay, so named for the silver mines that were once worked to the northwest along the Silver River. In fact, many foreign residents refer to Mui Wo as Silvermine Bay.

About a third of Lantau's population lives in the township of Mui Wo and its surrounding hamlets. There are several decent places to stay here and, though the options for eating and drinking are few, they are fine.

Silvermine Bay Beach, to the northwest of Mui Wo, has been cleaned up and rebuilt in recent years and is now an attractive place, with scenic views and opportunities for walking in the hills above. There's a complex with toilets, showers and changing rooms open from April to October.

If you have the time, consider hiking out to **Silvermine Waterfall**, the main feature of a picturesque garden near the old **Silvermine Cave** northwest of the town. The waterfall is quite a spectacle during the rainy season, when it swells and gushes; the cave was mined for silver in the latter half of the 19th century but has now been sealed off.

En route to the waterfall you'll pass the local **Man Mo temple**, originally built during the reign of Emperor Shen Zong (1573–1620) of the Ming dynasty and renovated a couple of times in the last century.

You can reach the temple, cave and waterfall by walking west along Mui Wo Rural Committee Rd and then following the marked path north. The 3km walk should take about an hour.

There are several old granite watchtowers in the area, including **Luk Tei Tong Watchtower** on the Silver River and **Butterfly Hill**

Watchtower further north. They were built in the late 19th century as safe houses and as coastal defences against pirates.

HONG KONG DISNEYLAND Map p136

☎ 1-830 830; www.hongkongdisneyland.com; adult/senior over 65/child 3-11 Mon-Fri \$295/170/210, Sat, Sun & holidays \$350/250/200; 🚶 10am-9pm Apr-Oct, 10am-7pm Nov-Mar; MTR Disney Bay Resort

One of America's most famous cultural exports finally landed in Hong Kong in late 2005 and has been struggling ever since to attract the hoped-for number of visitors. The reason is simple: compared to its US and European sister parks this tiny 100-odd hectare park, divided into four main areas – Main Street USA, Fantasyland, Adventureland and Tomorrowland – offers a decidedly flat experience. Welcome to Anti-climaxland. Or perhaps that should be Lack-lustreland or maybe Merchandisingland.

There's a single real adrenaline-inducing roller coaster ride (Space Mountain) and the rest of the park is made up of lacklustre amusements rammed with Disney shops (selling toys way beyond the budgets of most mainland visitors, the park's target market) and fast-food outlets at every turn.

The full complement of Disney characters patrolling the park and the odd show re-creating great Disney moments from films such as *Pirates of the Caribbean* will doubtless please young visitors, but take teenagers along and you may face a mutiny of your own making. The resurgent Ocean Park (p82) offers vastly more variety, thrills and amusement for all ages.

Disneyland is linked by rail with the MTR at the new futuristic Sunny Bay station on the Tung Chung line; passengers just cross the platform to board the dedicated train for Disneyland Resort station and the theme park. Journey times from Central/Kowloon/Tsing Yi stations are 10/21/24 minutes.

DISCOVERY BAY Map p136

📍 Discovery Bay

Lying on the northeastern coast of Lantau, what locals have dubbed 'DB' is very much a world of its own, a dormitory community for professionals who commute to Central. Discovery Bay (Yue Ging Wan in Cantonese) has a fine stretch of sandy beach

ringed by high-rises and more luxurious condominiums clinging to the headland to the north – but there is no pressing need to visit except to ogle at residents in their converted golf carts that cost \$200,000 a pop. There is a handful of decent restaurants in **Discovery Bay Plaza**, just up from the ferry pier and the central plaza, and the 27-hole **Discovery Bay Golf Club** (see p224) perched in the hills to the southwest.

Until recently Discovery Bay existed in splendid isolation, linked only to the outside by ferries from Central, Lantau and Peng Chau and all but inaccessible from the rest of Lantau even on foot. Now buses make the run to and from Tung Chung and the airport at Chek Lap Kok via the **Discovery Bay Tunnel** and the North Lantau Hwy. A trail leading from the golf course will take you down to Silvermine Bay and the rest of Lantau in a couple of hours.

TUNG CHUNG Map p136

Tung Chung; 🚶 3M from Mui Wo, 11 from Tai O, 23 from Ngong Ping

In recent years change has come to Tung Chung, on Lantau's northern coast, at a pace that can only happen in Hong Kong. This previously all-but-inaccessible farming region, with the small village of Tung Chung at its centre, has seen Chek Lap Kok, the mountain across Tung Chung Bay, flattened to build Hong Kong's international airport and a New Town served by the MTR rise up.

As part of the territory's plans to solve the housing crisis, Tung Chung New Town has now become a 760-hectare residential estate. The targeted population of Tung Chung and the neighbouring New Town of Tai Ho is an astonishing 330,000 by 2012.

These developments and transport improvements have put an end to Tung Chung as a peaceful and secluded spot. But efforts have been made to protect **Tung Chung Old Village**. Buildings may rise no higher than three storeys and each floor can be no larger than 70 sq metres.

Annals record a settlement at Tung Chung as early as the Ming dynasty. There are several Buddhist establishments in the upper reaches of the valley, but the main attraction here is **Tung Chung Fort** (Tung Chung Rd; admission free; 🚶 10am-5pm Wed-Mon), which dates back to 1832, when Chinese troops were garrisoned on Lantau. The Japanese

briefly occupied the fort during WWII. Measuring 70m by 80m and enclosed by granite-block walls, it retains six of its muzzle-loading cannons pointing out to sea.

About 1km to the north are the ruins of **Tung Chung Battery**, which is a much smaller fort built in 1817. All that remains is an L-shaped wall facing the sea, with a gun emplacement in the corner. The ruins were only discovered in 1980, having been hidden for about a century by scrub.

Facing Tung Chung Bay to the southwest in the village of Sha Tsui Tau is double-roofed **Hau Wong Temple**, founded at the end of the Song dynasty. The temple contains a bell dating from 1765 and inscribed by the Qing-dynasty emperor Qian Long.

CHEUNG CHAU

Drinking & Nightlife [p212](#); Eating [p199](#); Sleeping [p266](#)
Once a refuge for pirates, Cheung Chau (Long Island; [Map p143](#)) supports a population of some 30,000 people on less than 2½ sq km of territory. Its modest dimensions and winding pathways past temples, beaches, fishing boats and mini chandleries make a delightful destination for a day trip.

Fishing and aquaculture are important industries for a large number of the island's inhabitants, some of whom still live on junks and sampans anchored in the harbour. Bring your camera for some of the best shots of traditional maritime life on the South China coast.

CHEUNG CHAU'S BUN FESTIVAL

The annual **Bun Festival** (*Tai-ping ching jiu* in Cantonese; www.cheungchau.org), which honours the god Pak Tai and is unique to the island, takes place over eight days in late April or early May, traditionally starting on the sixth day of the fourth moon. It is a Taoist festival, and there are four days of religious observances.

The festival is renowned for its bun towers, bamboo scaffolding up to 20m high that are covered with sacred rolls. If you visit Cheung Chau a week or so before the festival, you'll see the towers being built in front of Pak Tai Temple.

In the past, hundreds of people would scramble up the towers at midnight on the designated day to grab one of the buns for good luck. The higher the bun, the greater the luck, so everyone tried to reach the top. In 1978 a tower collapsed under the weight of the climbers, injuring two-dozen people. Now everyone must remain on terra firma and the buns are handed out.

Sunday, the third day of the festival, features a procession of floats, stilt walkers, and people dressed as characters from Chinese legends and opera. Most interesting are the colourfully dressed 'floating children', who are carried through the streets on long poles, cleverly wired to metal supports hidden under their clothing. The supports include footrests and a padded seat.

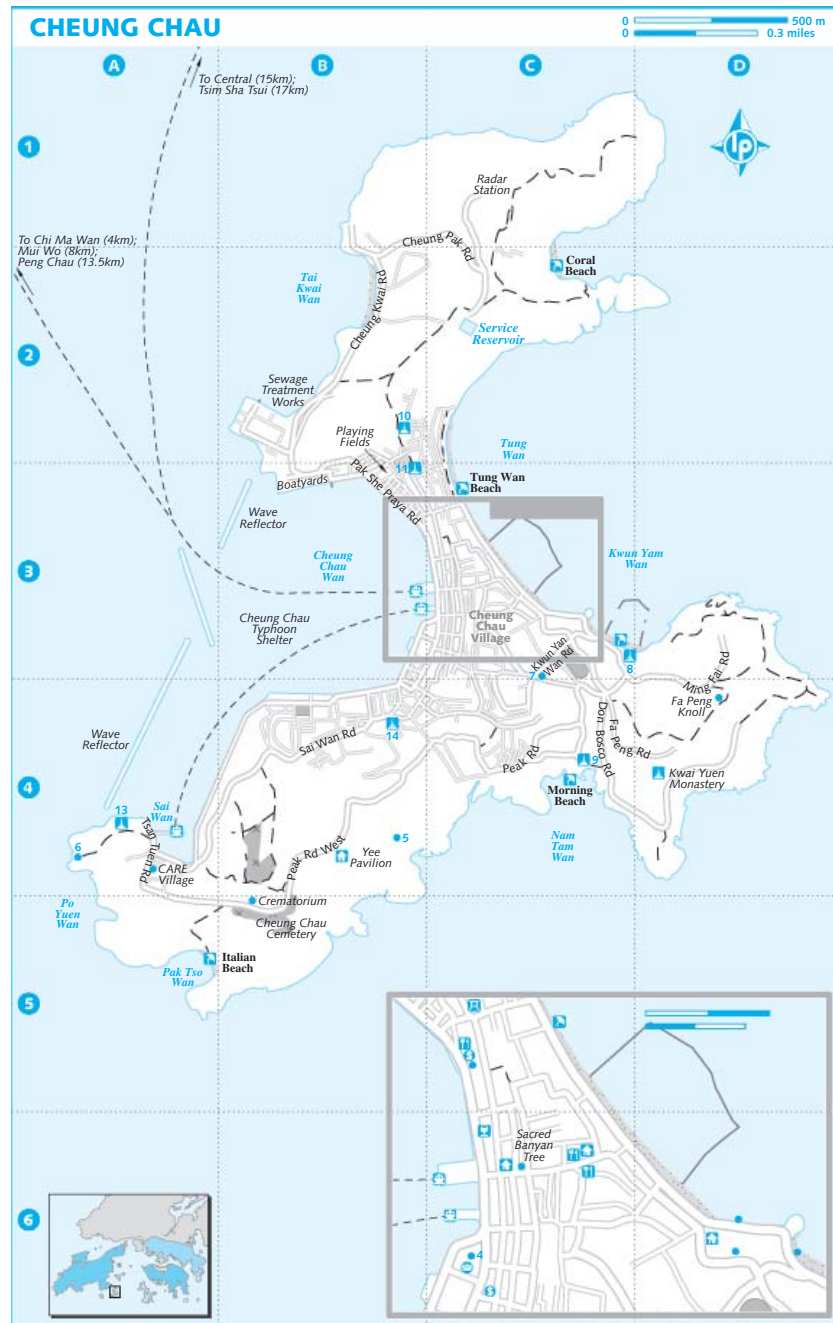
Offerings are made to the spirits of all the fish and livestock killed and consumed over the previous year. A priest reads out a decree calling on the villagers to abstain from killing any animals during the four-day festival, and no meat is consumed.

TRANSPORT – CHEUNG CHAU

Ferry Services from Central leave from pier 5 of the Outlying Islands ferry terminal. Ferries can also be taken from Mui Wo and Chi Ma Wan on Lantau and from Peng Chau. Additionally, regular *kaidos* operate between Cheung Chau village (Sampan pier) and Sai Wan in the south of the island.

Archaeological evidence, including a 3000-year-old **rock carving** uncovered just below the Warwick Hotel, suggests that Cheung Chau, like Lamma and Lantau, was inhabited at least as early as the Neolithic period. The island had a thriving fishing community at the time, and the early inhabitants – Hakka and Cantonese settlers – supplemented their income with smuggling and piracy.

Cheung Chau boasts several interesting temples, the most important being Pak Tai Temple, which hosts the annual Bun Festival, the red-letter day on Cheung Chau (see boxed text, [below](#)). The island has a few worthwhile beaches, and there are some relatively easy walks, including the one described on [p145](#). When Canton (present-day Guangzhou) and Macau opened up to the West in the 16th century, Cheung Chau was a perfect spot from which to prey on passing ships. The infamous and powerful 18th-century pirate Cheung Po Tsai is said to have had his base here, and you can still visit the cave where he supposedly stashed his booty at the southwestern tip of the island.



CHEUNG CHAU

INFORMATION

| | | |
|------------------------|---|----|
| HSBC | 1 | C6 |
| HSBC ATM 匯豐銀行提款機 | 2 | C5 |
| Post Office 郵局 | 3 | C6 |

SIGHTS (pp142-5)

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| Cheung Chau Market 長洲街市 | 4 | C6 |
| Cheung Chau Meteorological Station | 5 | B4 |
| Cheung Po Tsai Cave 張保仔洞 | 6 | A4 |
| Kwan Kung Pavilion 關公忠義亭 | 7 | C3 |
| Kwun Yam Temple 觀音廟 | 8 | C3 |
| Nam Tam Wan Tin Hau Temple 南沓灣天后廟 | 9 | C4 |

| | | |
|--|----|----|
| Pak She Tin Hau Temple 北社天后廟 | 10 | B2 |
| Pak Tai Temple 北帝廟 | 11 | B3 |
| Rock Carving 長洲石刻 | 12 | D6 |
| Sai Wan Tin Hau Temple 西灣天后廟 | 13 | A4 |
| Tai Shek Hau Tin Hau Temple 大石口天后廟 | 14 | B4 |
| Tou Tei Shrine 土地廟 | 15 | C5 |

EATING

| | | |
|------------------------------|----|----|
| East Lake 東湖 | 16 | C6 |
| Hometown Teahouse 故鄉茶寮 | 17 | C6 |
| New Baccarat 新金湖海鮮酒家 | 18 | C5 |

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|----|
| DRINKING ☑ (pp212-13) | | |
| Morocco's Bar & Restaurant | 19 | C6 |
| Patio Café | (see 21) | |

SPORTS & ACTIVITIES (pp222-31)

| | | |
|--|----|----|
| Bicycle Rentals | 20 | C5 |
| Cheung Chau Windsurfing Water Sports Centre 長洲滑浪風帆水上活動中心 | 21 | D6 |

SLEEPING ☑ (p266)

| | | |
|--|----|----|
| Cheung Chau Accommodation Kiosks | 22 | C6 |
| Cheung Chau B&B | 23 | C6 |
| Warwick Hotel 華威酒店 | 24 | D6 |

Cheung Chau is a bone-shaped island 10km southwest of Hong Kong Island and just off the Chi Ma Wan peninsula on southeastern Lantau. Cheung Chau village, where the ferry docks, is the only real settlement on the island.

There is an **HSBC** (☎ 2981 1127; Lot 1116, Praya South) branch southeast of the cargo pier, and an **ATM** (19A Pak She Praya Rd) north of the ferry pier. The **post office** (2A Tai Hing Tai St) is in the market complex. The **market** (☎ 8.30am-5pm) is a hive of activity, with meat and fish being sold on the ground floor and a variety of other goods upstairs. There is no transport on Cheung Chau, but you can rent bicycles from a **kiosk** (☎ 2981 0227) at the northern end of Praya St for \$10/30 per hour/day and new two-seat pedal bikes for \$30/90.

PAK TAI TEMPLE Map p143

☎ 2981 0663; Pak She Fourth Lane; ☎ 7am-5pm; 🗺️ Cheung Chau

This colourful and recently renovated temple from 1783 is the oldest on the island and is the focus of the annual **Cheung Chau Bun Festival** (p142) in late April or early May. It is dedicated to the Taoist deity Pak Tai, the 'Supreme Emperor of the Dark Heaven', military protector of the state, guardian of peace and order, and protector of fisherfolk. Legend tells that early settlers from Guangdong province brought an image of Pak Tai with them to Cheung Chau and, when the statue was carried through the village, Cheung Chau was spared the plague that had decimated the populations of nearby islands. A temple dedicated to the saviour was built six years later.

BEACHES Map p143

🗺️ Cheung Chau

Tung Wan Beach, Cheung Chau's longest and most popular (though not its prettiest)

beach lies at the end of Tung Wan Rd, due east of the ferry pier. The best part of Tung Wan is the far southern end, which is a great area for windsurfing. Just south of Tung Wan Beach, Kwun Yam Wan Beach is known to English speakers as **Afternoon Beach** and is a great spot for windsurfing.

Windsurfing has always been an extremely popular pastime on Cheung Chau, and Hong Kong's only Olympic gold-medal winner to date, Lee Lai-shan, who took the top prize in windsurfing at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, grew up here. At the northern end of Afternoon Beach, the **Cheung Chau Windsurfing Water Sports Centre** (☎ 2981 8316; www.ccwind.com.hk; 1 Hak Pai Rd; ☎ 10am-7pm) rents sailboards for between \$90 and \$150 per hour, as well as single/double kayaks for \$60/100. There are also windsurfing courses available for \$700 per day. The best time for windsurfing here is between October and December.

At the southeastern end of Afternoon Beach a footpath leads uphill past a **Kwun Yam temple**, which is dedicated to the goddess of mercy. Continue up the footpath and look for the sign to the Fa Peng Knoll. The concrete footpath takes you past quiet, tree-shrouded villas.

From the knoll you can walk down to signposted Don Bosco Rd; it leads due south to rocky **Nam Tam Wan** (also known as Morning Beach), where swimming is possible. If you ignore Don Bosco Rd and continue walking west, you'll come to the intersection of Peak and Kwun Yam Wan Rds. Kwun Yam Wan Rd and its extension, School Rd, will take you back to Cheung Chau village.

Peak Rd is the main route to the island's cemetery in the southwestern part of the island; you'll pass several pavilions along the way built for coffin bearers making

the hilly climb. Once at the cemetery it's worth dropping down to **Pak Tso Wan** (Italian Beach), a sandy, isolated spot that is good for swimming. At this point Peak Rd West becomes Tsan Tuen Rd, which continues north to Sai Wan.

CHEUNG CHAU TYPHOON SHELTER

Map p143

🗺️ Cheung Chau

A great way to see the harbour and soak up the fishing village atmosphere is to charter a **sampan** for half an hour (expect to pay \$50 to \$80 depending on the day, the season and the demand). Most sampans congregate around the cargo pier, but virtually any small boat you see in the harbour can be hired as a water taxi. Just wave and two or three will come forward. Be sure to agree on the fare first.

CHEUNG CHAU VILLAGE Map p143

🗺️ Cheung Chau

The island's main settlement lies along the narrow strip of land connecting the headlands to the north and the south. The waterfront is a bustling place and the maze of streets and alleyways that make up the village are filled with old Chinese-style houses and tumble-down shops selling everything from plastic buckets to hell money. The streets close to the waterfront are pungent with the smell of incense and fish hung out to dry in the sun.

CHEUNG PO TSAI CAVE Map p143

🗺️ Cheung Chau

This cave, on the southwestern peninsula of the island, is said to have been the favourite hideout of the notorious pirate Cheung Po Tsai, who once commanded a flotilla of 600 junks and had a private army of 4000 men. He surrendered to the Qing government in 1810 and became an official himself, but his treasure is said to remain hidden here.

It's a 2km walk from Cheung Chau village along Sai Wan Rd, or take a **kaido** (adult/child \$3/2 - but dependent on passenger numbers) from the cargo ferry pier to the pier at Sai Wan. From here the walk is less than 200m (uphill).

TIN HAU TEMPLES Map p143

🗺️ Cheung Chau

Cheung Chau has four temples dedicated to Tin Hau, the empress of heaven and

patroness of seafarers. **Pak She Tin Hau Temple** lies 100m northwest of the Pak Tai Temple. **Nam Tan Wan Tin Hau temple** is just north of Morning Beach; **Tai Shek Hau Tin Hau temple** is to the west on Sai Wan Rd. **Sai Wan Tin Hau temple** is west of Sai Wan (Western Bay), on the southwestern tip of the island. You can walk there or catch a **kaido** from the cargo pier.

ISLAND LIFE

Walking Tour

1 Cheung Chau Ferry Pier Head north along Praya St, where a row of mostly **seafood restaurants** face the harbour. Praya St becomes Pak She Praya Rd after the turn-off for Kwok Man Rd, and from here you can look out at the many junks and sampans moored in the harbour and typhoon shelter.

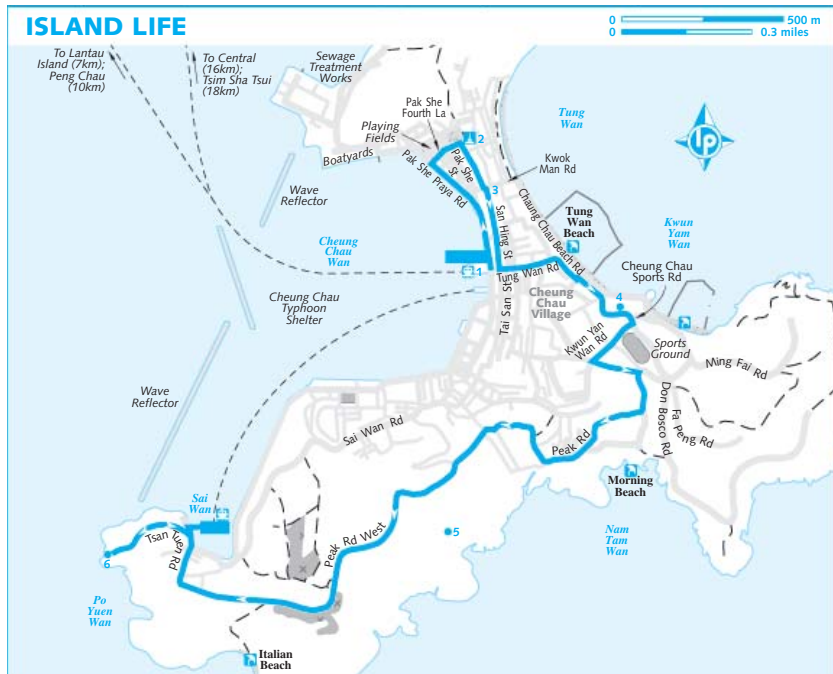
2 Pak Tai Temple At Pak She Fourth Lane, turn right and shortly you'll see the colourful temple, built in 1783. The **Pak She Tin Hau Temple** is behind, about 100m to the northwest. The temple is within the grounds of the Chung Shak-Hei home for the aged.

3 Pak San St & San Hing St You'll pass **traditional Chinese houses** and several shops selling **traditional Chinese medicine**, incense and paper hell money to be burned in memory of the dead. Further south, and on the left at the intersection of Pak She St and Kwok Man Rd, is a small **Tou Tei shrine**, dedicated to the overworked earth god.

4 Rock Carving Turn right and walk along Cheung Chau Beach Rd to a 3000-year-old **rock carving** of two identical geometric designs, just below the Warwick Hotel. Behind the hotel is Cheung Chau Sports Rd; walk up and when you see a pavilion, turn right onto Kwun Yam Wan Rd and from there onto Peak Rd, which takes you around to the other side of the pavilion.

WALK FACTS

Start Cheung Chau ferry pier (ferry from pier 5 in Central)
End Sai Wan (*kaido* to Cheung Chau ferry pier)
Distance 4.5km
Time 2½ hours
Fuel stop Hometown Teahouse



5 Cheung Chau Meteorological Station

Follow Peak Rd West about 500m past Kam Kong Primary School to the **Meteorological Station**, offering splendid views of the island and sea. A bit further south and through the trees to the left is **Cheung Chau Cemetery**, affording a quiet and solemn view out to sea. Stay left where the path splits in the cemetery.

6 Cheung Po Tsai Cave Follow the signs for Sai Wan and signs to the **Cheung Po Tsai Cave** (p145), a place where pirates of old were supposed to have buried their booty. Return via the well-signposted *kaido* (adult/child \$3/2) back to Cheung Chau village. Alternatively, follow Sai Wan Rd around the bay and north back to the village (20 to 30 minutes).

PENG CHAU

Tiny Peng Chau (Map p147) is fairly flat and not especially beautiful, but it does have its charms. It is perhaps the most traditionally Chinese of the Outlying Islands, with narrow alleyways, crowded housing, a covered wet market near the ferry pier, a couple of small but important temples, and interesting shops

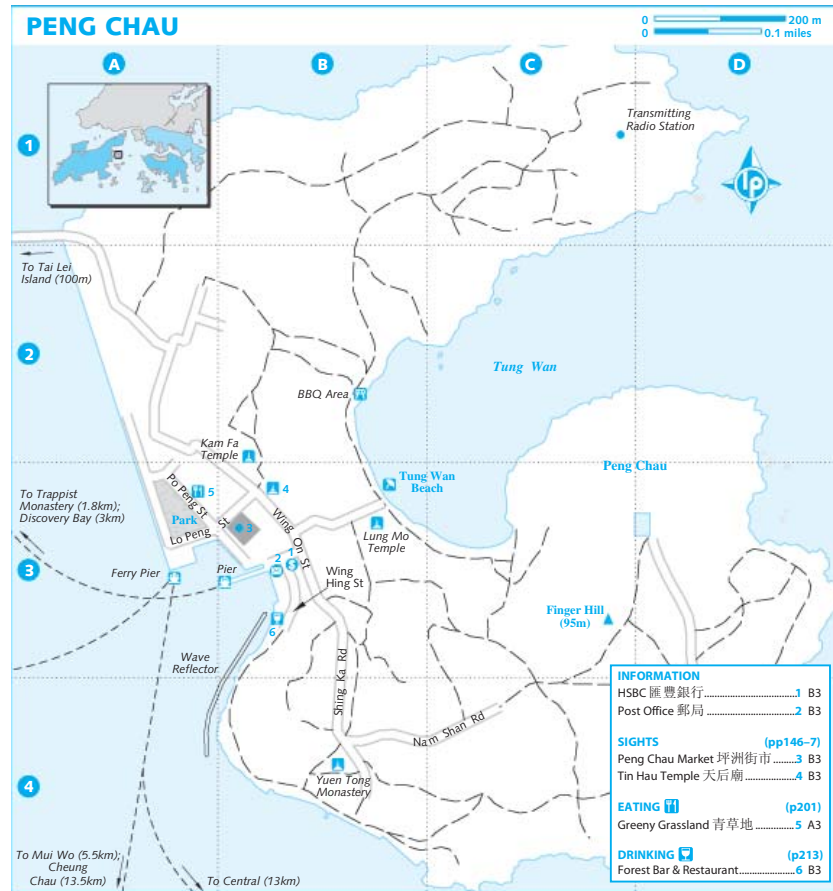
selling everything from Thai goods to New Age products. There are also a few closet-sized restaurants whose sea views have unfortunately been ruined by a massive concrete 'wave reflector' and promenade running along the shore south of the ferry pier.

The appeal of visiting Peng Chau lies in slacking your pace to match the island's, and soaking up the traditional sights and sounds, such as the clatter of mah jong tiles with the plaintive accompaniment of Cantonese opera leaking from old transistors.

Until recently the island's economy was supported by fishing and some cottage industries, notably the manufacture of porcelain, furniture and metal tubing. These manufacturing industries are now all but dead, hav-

TRANSPORT – PENG CHAU

Ferry Services from Central leave from pier 6 of the Outlying Islands ferry terminal. Ferries also depart from Mui Wo and Chi Ma Wan on Lantau and from Cheung Chau. Additionally, regular *kaidos* operate to Peng Chau from the Trappist Monastery and Discovery Bay on Lantau.



ing moved to mainland China, though you will find a couple of porcelain and gift shops on Wing Hing and Wing On Sts. There's a branch of **HSBC** (☎ 2983 0383; 1 Wing Hing St; ☹ Mon, Wed & Fri) nearby. The **post office** is due west near the start of the promenade.

Looking not unlike a plumped-out horseshoe jettisoned from Lantau's northeast coast, Peng Chau is just under 1 sq km in area. It is inhabited by around 7000 people, making it far more densely populated than its larger neighbour.

There are no cars on Peng Chau, and you can walk around it easily in an hour. Climbing the steps up to **Finger Hill** (95m), the island's highest point, and topped with the winged Chinese-style **Fung Ping Pavilion**, offers some light exercise and excellent views. To get to it from the ferry pier, walk up Lo Peng St, turn right

at the **Tin Hau temple**, containing a century-old 2.5m-long whale bone blackened by incense smoke, and walk south along Wing On St. This gives way to Shing Ka Rd, and Nam Shan Rd leads from here east up to Finger Hill. The water at otherwise-pleasant **Tung Wan Beach**, a five-minute walk from the ferry pier, is too dirty for swimming and is not served by lifeguards.

MA WAN

Ma Wan (Map pp50–1, Map p136) was once famous as the gateway to Kowloon, where foreign ships would drop anchor before entering Chinese waters. If you want to get away from it all, Ma Wan is hardly the place to go. It's got a couple of temples devoted to Tin Hau, a long beach on the east coast at Tung Wan and

TRANSPORT – MA WAN

Ferry Services from Central leave from pier 2 of the Outlying Islands ferry terminal. Ferries also depart from Tsuen Wan. The ferry pier is south of Tsuen Wan West KCR station (Map pp50–1).

a massive, high-end residential community called Park Island. Basically you're here to view some startling engineering feats.

Ma Wan is a flat, rapidly developing island off the northeastern tip of Lantau. It is effectively the 'anchor' for the Lantau Link between Hong Kong's largest island and the New Territories.

LANTAU LINK BRIDGES

Map pp50–1, Map p136

Ma Wan

The real reason to come to Ma Wan is to take in the enormity of Tsing Ma Bridge to the east (and, to a lesser extent, Kap Shui Mun Bridge on the west), which forms the rail and road link connecting Lantau with the New Territories via Tsing Yi Island. While catapulting Ma Wan headlong into the next century, the bridge has guaranteed an end to the island's solitude; it now serves as a huge platform for the civil engineering works overhead. Neighbouring Tsing Yi has a special viewing platform for those

particularly interested in seeing the bridge up close (below).

TSING YI

Tsing Yi (Map pp50–1), disfigured by oil depots and extended by land reclamation, serves as a stepping stone for the gigantic Tsing Ma Bridge, at 1377m the world's longest suspension bridge. Don't even think about visiting the beaches.

Tsing Yi is the large island to the east of Ma Wan on the MTR's Tung Chung and the Airport Express lines.

LANTAU LINK VISITORS CENTRE

Map pp50–1

☎ 2495 5825, 2495 7583; admission free;

🕒 10am–5pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, 10am–6.30pm

Sat & Sun; MTR Tsing Yi, 🚗 green minibus 308M

The Lantau Link Visitors Centre and its **viewing platform** (admission free; 🕒 7am–10.30pm Sun–Fri, 7am–1.30am Sat) is where you can take in the enormity of Tsing Yi Bridge and the Lantau Link, the combined road and rail transport connection between the New Territories and Lantau. The centre contains models, photographs and videos of the construction process – very much a crowd-pleaser for train spotters and the hard-hat brigade.

The visitors centre is in the northwest corner of Tsing Yi Island just to the south

THE PINK DOLPHINS OF THE PEARL RIVER

Between 100 and 200 misnamed Chinese white dolphins (*Sousa chinensis*) – they are actually bubble-gum pink – inhabit the coastal waters around Hong Kong, finding the brackish waters of the Pearl River estuary to be the perfect habitat. Unfortunately these glorious mammals, which are also called Indo-Pacific humpback dolphins, are being threatened by environmental pollution, and their numbers are dwindling.

The threat comes in many forms, but the most prevalent – and direct – dangers are sewage, chemicals, over-fishing and boat traffic. Some 200,000 cu metres of untreated sewage are dumped into the western harbour every day, and high concentrations of chemicals such as DDT have been found in tissue samples taken from some of the dolphins. Several dolphins have been entangled in fishing nets and, despite the dolphins' skill at sensing and avoiding surface vessels, some have collided with boats.

The dolphins' habitat has also been diminished by the erosion of the natural coastline of Lantau Island during the construction of Hong Kong International Airport, which required land reclamation of 9.5 sq km of seabed and the destruction of many kilometres of natural coastline. The North Lantau Hwy also consumed about 10km of the natural coastline. The Hong Kong Disneyland theme park also required large amounts of reclamation in Penny's Bay.

Hong Kong Dolphinwatch (Map p92; ☎ 2984 1414; www.hkdolphinwatch.com; 15th fl, Middle Block, 1528A Star House, 3 Salisbury Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui) was founded in 1995 to raise awareness of these wonderful creatures and promote responsible ecotourism. It offers 2½-hour cruises (adult/student & senior/child under 12 \$360/255/180) to see the pink dolphins in their natural habitat every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday year-round. Guides assemble in the lobbies of the Mandarin Oriental in Central at 8.30am and the Kowloon Hotel in Tsim Sha Tsui at 9am for the bus to Tung Chung via the Tsing Ma Bridge, from where the boat departs; the tours return at 1pm or 1.30pm. About 97% of the cruises result in the sighting of at least one dolphin; if none are spotted, passengers are offered a free trip.

TRANSPORT – TSING YI

MTR Tsing Yi station on Tung Chung line.

Airport Express Tsing Yi station for services from Hong Kong and Kowloon or the airport.

Green minibus For the Lantau Viewing Platform and Visitor Centre take minibus 308M from Tsing Yi MTR station (exit A1).

of Ting Kau Bridge. To reach it, take the MTR to Tsing Yi station, use exit No A1 and board minibus 308M in Maritime Sq, which will drop you off at the centre's car park.

TUNG LUNG CHAU

Standing guard at the eastern entrance to Victoria Harbour is the island of Tung Lung Chau (Map pp50–1), or 'East Dragon Island', whose position was once considered strategic enough for protection. According to the experts the island is Hong Kong's premier spot for rock climbing (p223).

Tung Lung Chau lies to the south of the Clearwater Bay Peninsula across the narrow Fat Tong Mun channel. To the west is Shek O and Big Wave Bay on Hong Kong Island's east coast. In addition, the northwest tip of the island boasts an important rock carving of what is generally thought to be a dragon. It is quite possibly the oldest such carving

TRANSPORT – TUNG LUNG CHAU

Ferry Kaidos run from Sai Wan Ho on Hong Kong Island via Joss House Bay on the Clearwater Bay Peninsula in the New Territories. There are single sailings on Tuesday and Thursday, with more regular services only on weekends and public holidays. A weekend and holiday service also operates from Sam Ka Tsuen near Yau Tong MTR.

in the territory and it is certainly the largest, measuring 2.4m by 1.8m. The ferry pier is close by.

TUNG LUNG FORT Map pp50–1

Tung Lung Chau

Tung Lung Fort, on the northeastern corner of the island, was built in the late 17th or early 18th century and was attacked a number of times by pirate bands before being abandoned in 1810. The fort once consisted of 15 guardhouses and was armed with eight cannons, but little of it remains today except for the outline of the exterior walls. There's an **information centre** (🕒 9am–4pm Wed–Mon) here.

PO TOI

Eating p201

Po Toi (Map pp50–1) is a solid favourite of weekend holiday-makers with their own seagoing transport. They frequent the seafood restaurants beyond the jetty at **Tai Wan**, the main settlement, in the island's southwest.

Po Toi is the largest of a group of four or five islands – one is little more than a huge rock – off the southeastern coast of Hong Kong Island. Hong Kong's territorial border lies just 2km to the south.

There's some decent walking on Po Toi, a tiny **Tin Hau temple** across the bay from the pier, and, on the southern coast, rock formations that (supposedly) look like a palm tree, a tortoise and a monk, and some mysterious **rock carvings** resembling stylised animals and fish. You can see everything here in an hour.

TRANSPORT – PO TOI

Ferry Kaidos run to the ferry pier from Aberdeen and Stanley on Tuesdays, Thursdays, weekends and public holidays.

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MEET THE LOCALS

Talk to seasoned travellers from Mumbai or Delhi and they may tell you what dull backwaters London or New York are compared with their home cities. You get the same feeling about Hong Kong citizens, who were weaned on the city's buzz and bustle. They're proud of its go-ahead spirit, philosophical about the shocking air quality and quite restless in the absence of ceaseless activity.

Perhaps the strongest feeling you get talking to Hong Kong people is their love of the energy and contrast offered by the city's kaleidoscopic neighbourhoods. Where else can you barter amid the intimate colour and gore of traditional wet markets while cricking your neck beneath looming corporate monoliths?

Not every contrast is a happy one, though. The vast gulf that divides Hong Kong's mega-rich and those merely getting by is written in the skyline. A very few private houses and executive residential blocks look down on countless ranks of nondescript public housing sprouting from the narrow streets below.

High-rise living (and long working hours) may be the lot of the majority but it's not the whole story. To set sail on the harbour for one of the outlying islands or board a double-decker across to Hong Kong Island's southern shores is to realise just how much space and peace everyone can enjoy in this tiny territory of seven million souls.

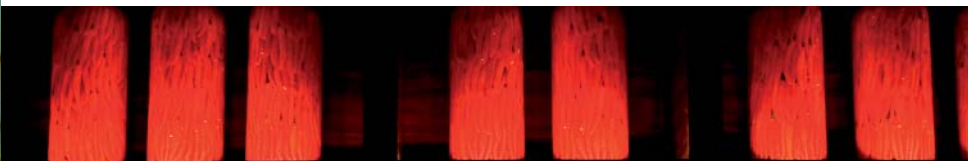
Just don't expect solitude in any neighbourhood on weekends, when absolutely everyone heads outdoors. And just think: if plans to merge Hong Kong and its neighbour Shenzhen into a single megacity bear fruit, you 'aint seen nothing yet.



Top-quality produce at the Graham St Market (p180), Central



| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Name | Calvin Yeung |
| Age | 40-something |
| Occupation | Designer & Executive Chef of the Aqua Restaurant Group |
| Residence | Hong Kong Island |



The Landmark shopping mall (p162) in Central is home to fine dining and high fashion (top); Drying fish in the traditional village of Tai O (p138), Lantau (middle); Food stalls in Tsim Sha Tsui (p166), Kowloon (bottom)

What's special about the food in Hong Kong? I like the combination of how seafood is treated and the way traditional Chinese food is celebrated. The approach to seafood is about 'less is more', which keeps it fresh and real tasting... whether that's prawns dried without seasoning in the sun, or fresh fish simply prepared.

What do you do when you're off duty? I enjoy simple home cooking with fresh ingredients. There's lots of good material to work with in Hong Kong's wet markets.

What do you tell visitors to do and see when they come to Hong Kong? Head up the Mid-Levels escalator, explore Lan Kwai Fong, Soho and Sheung Wan. You experience so many different layers of Hong Kong culture old and new: tourist spots, trendy places, tucked-away art galleries, traditional retail stores, such as Chinese medicine tea houses, and ancient architecture.

What's your favourite Hong Kong day out? Eating well on our junk *Aqua Luna*, on the harbor during the best time of year, autumn.

Any grumbles about your home town? Land reclamation! Victoria harbour is a stunning place to be, but I really worry how it will be affected by all this commercial activity.

For you, Hong Kong in a word? Speedy.





Name Dr Allan Zemun
Age 57
Occupation Entrepreneur & Property Developer
Residence Southern Hong Kong Island



The scenic cable car in Ocean Park (p82), Aberdeen (top); The beach at Repulse Bay (p86) attracts lots of visitors (middle); Causeway Bay (p73) is one of Hong Kong's top shopping and nightlife areas (bottom)



What makes Hong Kong so special? It's the fact that you can have an idea in the morning and make it happen the same day. It is a fantastic city to do business in, probably the best in the world. The possibilities are amazing.

Ten years on from the handover has Hong Kong changed? Hong Kong is better than ever, thanks to China. Everyone was questioning what was going to happen after the handover, but it has clearly benefited Hong Kong. We're now much better integrated with the Mainland economy – the world's 4th biggest.

What's your favourite Hong Kong day out? Taking my boat out to the beaches in Sai Kung (p126), then dinner in Lan Kwai Fong, and spending time with friends in the buzzing bars and clubs.

What are your favourite Hong Kong things? The cable-car ride at Ocean Park (p82), the stunning skyline, and the huge diversity of shopping and eating.

Hong Kong in a word? Vibrant.



The high-rise Central Plaza and the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre (p64), Wan Chai

Staunton's Wine Bar + Cafe



Staunton's Wine Bar & Cafe (p208), Soho



| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Name | Colette Koo |
| Age | 47, going on 27 |
| Occupation | Bar & Club Owner |
| Residence | Jardine's Lookout |



Lan Kwai Fong (p204) is a popular place to go for a drink (top); Peak Cafe Bar (p208), Soho (middle); FINDS Bar & Restaurant (p206), Central (bottom)

What can you expect from a night out in Hong Kong these days? The variety is amazing and the atmosphere is friendly with no hassle.

What's hot? Small and more private bars and clubs are popping up everywhere. Hong Kong's club and bar scene is all about intimate places and spaces.

How should you approach a night out in Hong Kong to get the best from it? Look at it as a moving feast, go with the flow. Expect to go to different places along the way, expect to meet lots of new people and expect to drink!

If you had to choose: nightclub or karaoke? Nightclub... have you heard me sing!?

Ten years on from the handover have you noticed any changes? The party scene has become much more vibrant.

What's your favourite Hong Kong day out? Wake-boarding in the morning, a seafood lunch, chill in the afternoon, have dinner with a few friends and drinks on the terrace at FINDS (p177). If the mood takes us, then Drop (p214) till 5am!

What are your favourite Hong Kong things? The sea, the closeness of everything (including neighbouring countries), the few remaining open markets, the efficiency and convenience. It's safe and the people are kind.





Name The Hon Leung Kwok Hung (aka Long Hair)
Age 51
Occupation Legislative Council Member & Political Activist
Residence Kowloon Bay



Stalls at the Graham St Market (p180), Central (top); Shop with the locals on Nathan Rd, Mong Kok (middle; p169); Find a bargain at the Temple Street Night Market (p96), Yau Ma Tei (bottom)



You spent years demonstrating outside the Legislative Council (and sometimes getting chucked out of it). What are you trying to achieve now that you are an elected member of it?

I want to show what a sham the current political system is. Collusion between business and government is as bad as ever and the election of the chief executive by 800 people in a territory of nearly seven million is a joke.

Ten years on from the handover have you noticed any changes? Politically it has got more repressive. I hope that eventually we will see full democracy in Hong Kong but in the short term I'm not optimistic.

If you had to choose: nightclub or karaoke? Definitely karaoke. There are good places all over Hong Kong, although it's becoming an expensive night out for local kids.

What are your favourite Hong Kong things? I'm so busy I don't get much free time to enjoy them. A night of karaoke maybe or a drink in Club 71 (p208), although it hasn't been the same since it moved location and changed its name from Club 64.



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