



SELF-GUIDED WALKS



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Modern-day Hong Kong may be best known for its glossy skyscrapers and world-class attractions, but to understand how the city became the bustling metropolis that it is today, one only need to pay a visit to Old Town Central.

One of the oldest yet also most dynamic districts in the city, Old Town Central – encompassing the sloped streets and small alleys of Central and Sheung Wan – encapsulates Hong Kong's rich and diverse spirit. A place where century-old temples share the same streets as fashion-forward concept stores, or where authentic tea houses coexist with modern art galleries, this colourful neighbourhood is at once old and new while also being proudly local and unmistakably global.

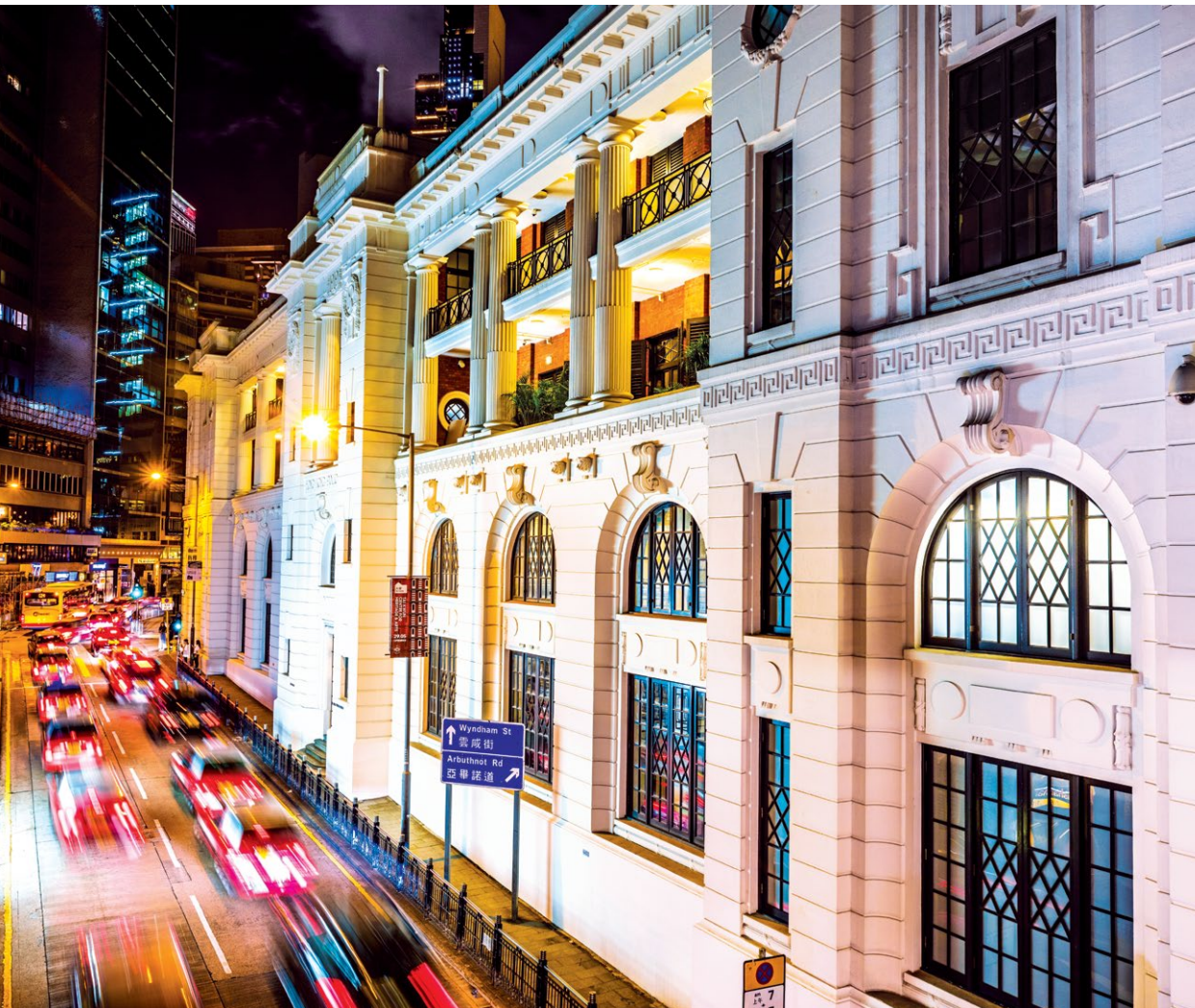
Immensely walkable and brimming with attractions, this neighbourhood is perfect to experience on foot. There's plenty to discover here, from heritage buildings and art institutions to local eats and fun souvenirs. Whatever your interests are, this guide will lead you to some of the best things that Old Town Central has to offer. Have fun exploring.

TimeOut
HONG KONG

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Time Travellers

Exploring Old Town Central is like taking a trip back in time. The neighbourhood, which encompasses Central and Sheung Wan, was where some of the earliest chapters of modern Hong Kong history unfolded. Today, more than 170 years since the British first settled at Possession Point, this district is still home to cobblestone streets, heritage buildings, traditional temples and other fascinating landmarks that illustrate its storied past and its early role in shaping the cosmopolitan city of Hong Kong as we know it today.



THE BEGINNINGS OF MODERN-DAY HONG KONG

These historic sites played an important role in the early chapters of the city's transition from a humble settlement to a modern metropolis.



① Possession Street

Ordinary as it may seem, Possession Street has a significant place in the history of Hong Kong. On 25 January 1841, the British navy arrived at nearby Possession Point (now Hollywood Road Park) and began 150 years of colonial rule, marked by a flag-raising ceremony the day after the initial landing. Originally perched on the waterfront, Possession Street was given a new lease of life through reclamation. The area is now dotted with hip restaurants and boutiques, alongside historic stores where you can still sample a taste of an older Hong Kong.



② Pottinger Street

Pottinger Street and its surrounding area give a good sense of what the lives of Central's early dwellers would have been like. The stone slabs spanning the entire street were laid in an irregular manner for a reason: some sections of this street between Hollywood Road and Connaught Road Central were particularly steep, and the uneven pavement made it easier for commuters and merchant-bearers to walk on while also allowing rainwater to flow down. Because of the unique design, locals still refer to it today as 'Stone Slab Street'.

There were stalls on either side of the street when it was constructed in the 19th century. Originally, they sold household goods, or offered services such as shoe and pot repairing, as well as clothing alteration. Today, as consumer habits have changed, most of them sell festive costumes or handicrafts.

LANDMARKS INFLUENCED BY EAST AND WEST CULTURE

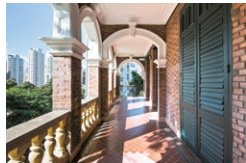
Hong Kong's unique cross-cultural heritage is duly reflected in the architecture and conceptual design of these iconic monuments.



3 Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences

This Edwardian brick building is a symbol of the development of medical sciences in Hong Kong. After the bubonic plague hit the city in the late 19th century, the colonial government stepped up efforts in medical development, which eventually led to the establishment of the first bacteriology institute. The laboratory came into service in 1906 as the city's first purpose-built clinical laboratory for public health, and the cornerstone of the development of medical sciences in Hong Kong. The museum now contains important exhibits on the city's medical history and is the first institution of its kind to compare Chinese and Western pathologies.

2 Caine Lane, Mid-Levels, Sheung Wan
+852 2549 5123
www.hkmm.org.hk



4 Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, Bridges Street Centre

Hong Kong's architecture was greatly enriched when Western and Chinese influences came together during the colonial era. The Bridges Street Centre of the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, which is just steps away from the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences, is a perfect case in point. Completed in 1918, the centre is a six-storey blend of Chicago School architecture and Chinese roofing techniques. In the early 20th century, it was a major social centre for the Chinese youth community and boasted enviable facilities, such as a fitness centre, restaurants and a hostel, as well as Hong Kong's very first indoor swimming pool.

51 Bridges Street, Sheung Wan
+852 2540 0526
bsc.ymca.org.hk



5 Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum

Despite its Edwardian-style facade – complete with Greek columns and stained glass windows – this four-storey museum is dedicated to the life and achievements of Dr Sun Yat-sen, who was an instrumental figure in the establishment of the Republic of China. The museum includes two permanent exhibitions that showcase artefacts from Dr Sun's eventful life and career, and also highlights the statesman's close ties to Hong Kong, where he received his secondary and university education and began to nurture some of his progressive ideas.

7 Castle Road, Mid-Levels, Central
+852 2367 6373
hk.dr.sunyatsen.museum



PLACES OF WORSHIP

From Chinese temples to Catholic cathedrals, the cultural melting pot of Hong Kong is home to places of worship for faiths and religions from all over the world.



6 Tai Ping Shan Street

Walk up from Possession Street and you will find yourself at Tai Ping Shan Street. A number of distinctive ancient temples line the two sides of this 300-metre-long path. The most eye-catching of them all is probably the smoky, red temple called Kwong Fook I Tsz. Built in 1856, it is a classic example of a temple that fulfilled diverse roles. It was an ancestral temple for migrant families, a shelter for the ill and also housed memorial tablets for immigrant workers who passed away while in Hong Kong. Also be sure to visit Tai Sui Temple near the staircase, Kwun Yum Temple, and the unassuming Fook Tak Palace – all of which are still frequented by worshippers.



7 Man Mo Temple

A five-minute walk from Tai Ping Shan Street, Man Mo Temple is a stunning complex estimated to have been built more than 150 years ago. It comprises three blocks, each serving different purposes. The namesake structure, Man Mo Temple, pays tribute to the God of Literature and the God of War, while Lit Shing Kung was created for all heavenly gods. Finally, Kung Sor was an assembly hall for resolving community disputes.

A great place to visit for history lovers, the well-preserved historic building houses a bronze bell dating back to 1847 and a sedan chair from 1862. The structure itself is just as fascinating, and comprises granite pillars, granite door frames, engraved wood plaques and ancient mural paintings.

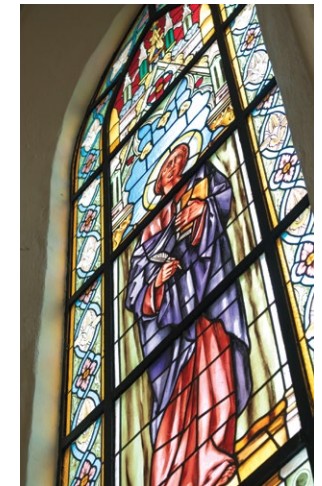
124-126 Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan
+852 2540 0350



8 Jamia Mosque

You can easily recognise Hong Kong's oldest mosque by its mint-green facade and gorgeous Islamic-influenced architecture. With its Arabic-style windows and gates, the Grade I historic building stands out among its Mid-Levels surroundings. Aside from being a place of worship for Muslims in Hong Kong, Jamia Mosque is also an important historic landmark that dates all the way back to the 1840s.

30 Shelley Street, Central
+852 2523 7743



9 Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

The Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception was moved to this quiet Mid-Levels location after its previous incarnation was destroyed in a fire. Built in the late 1880s, the church is a stunning example of gothic architecture and was constructed in a cruciform shape with a central spire. The structure has been designated a Grade I historical building and was also given an Honorable Mention by the UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Conservation Award in 2003 following its extensive renovation. Equally stunning inside, the cathedral is open for mass every Sunday and for public visitations from Monday to Saturday. Advance bookings are highly recommended.

16 Caine Road, Mid-Level, Sheung Wan
+852 25228212
cathedral.catholic.org.hk

INNOVATIVE TRIBUTES TO HONG KONG HISTORY

Using modern technology and cutting-edge design, these sites celebrate the heritage of the city in exciting new ways.

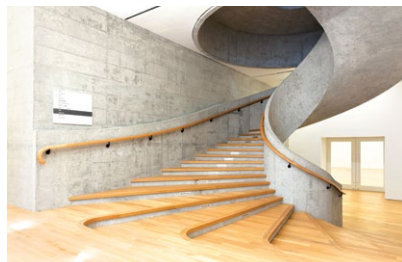


10 Tai Kwun

Tai Kwun, meaning 'big station' in Cantonese, was a nickname for the former Central Police Station Compound, which boasts a history of more than 170 years. The site comprises 16 heritage buildings – all magnificent works of architecture. The former Police Headquarters, for example, is a resplendent example of Neoclassicism while the barracks, built between 1862 and 1864, is known for its distinctive Roman-style arch.

Wonderfully preserved, the historical site has since been transformed into an arts and culture hub – and one of the largest conservation projects to date in Hong Kong. Along with two newly built structures, the original buildings now house art galleries, retail shops and various bars and restaurants. Tai Kwun also hosts curated art exhibitions, performances, workshops, film screenings and guided tours, so be sure to check ahead for schedules and details.

📍 10 Hollywood Road, Central
☎ +852 3559 2600
🌐 www.taikwun.hk



11 Pak Tsz Lane Park

From Tai Kwun, walk down Hollywood Road and you'll soon reach Pak Tsz Lane Park, one of the 16 stops along the Dr Sun Yat-sen Historic Trail. This tranquil patch of green was built to commemorate the achievements of the Furen Literary Society, which was founded by revolutionary leaders Yeung Ku-wan and Tse Tsan-tai on 13 March 1892. The group eventually merged with Dr Sun's Revive China Society and was heavily involved in the 1911 Chinese Revolution. Revitalised with an urban architectural design, this memorial park features exhibition panels, interactive facilities and an educational playground that traces the society's history and revolutionary activities.

📍 Pak Tsz Lane, Central



12 Hong Kong News-Expo

The former Bridges Street Market has undergone a massive transformation to become the Hong Kong News-Expo, Asia's first exhibition and education facility to showcase and celebrate the role of media and journalism in Hong Kong. The Grade III historic building houses interactive exhibitions demonstrating the development of local media, spanning from its infancy in the form of newspaper and radio to television and digital media. Join the free seminars, workshops and guided tours for a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Hong Kong press.

📍 2 Bridges Street, Central
☎ +852 2055 2233
🌐 hkne.org.hk





Crazy for Art

One of the most vibrant neighbourhoods in Hong Kong, Old Town Central is bursting with creativity on every street corner. This area has everything from experimental stage performances held inside a repurposed depot, to world-class art exhibitions and edgy graffiti that graces the walls of small alleys.

ART AND CULTURE HUBS

From a gallery complex to a private museum, these centres of creativity all call Central home.



13 PMQ

Formerly the Police Married Quarters, PMQ now houses works by promising young artists and designers in Hong Kong. Not only will you find a fascinating line-up of creative studios and designer products here, but there are also exhibitions and workshops all year round, giving you insights into the local creative scene. What's more, this creative space doubles as an art canvas as well – be sure to check out the 20 flights of staircases here that have been decorated by groups of talented artists who were all inspired by tales of Hong Kong.

35 Aberdeen Street, Central
+852 2870 2335
www.pmq.org.hk



14 Fringe Club

Situated amid the hustle and bustle of Central, Fringe Club distinguishes itself from the surrounding high-rises with a neoclassical exterior made of milky white and brown bricks.

Since it inhabited part of the Old Dairy Farm Depot in 1984, the Fringe Club has been a celebrated exhibition and performance venue, and has helped introduce experimental works to the city's art scene. Catch a host of poetry reading sessions, exhibitions and plays and musical performances while you're here, but be sure to check the events calendar before you visit.

2 Lower Albert Road, Central
+852 2521 7251
www.hkfringeclub.com

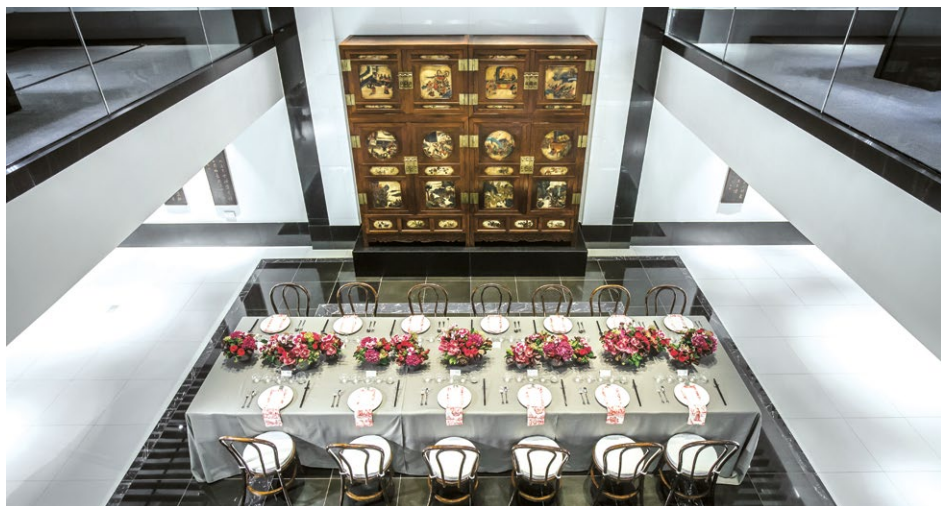




15 Pedder Building

Housed within this beautiful Beaux-Arts style structure and a Grade II historic building is a wonderful range of internationally renowned galleries including the likes of Ben Brown Fine Arts, Gagosian and Lehmann Maupin. Spanning multiple floors, Pedder Building is the ideal destination for gallery-hopping and discovering works by some of the biggest names in the current global art scene, as well as up-and-comers making big waves.

📍 12 Pedder Street, Central



16 Liang Yi Museum

This private art museum is a shining gem in the heart of Sheung Wan, especially for antiquities lovers. Spanning four-storeys, Liang Yi Museum collects and showcases rare and under-the-radar Chinese antique furniture, as well as European bejewelled clutches, compacts and powder boxes from luxury design brands such as Cartier and Van Cleef & Arpels. Make sure to book an appointment if you want to peruse the museum's fascinating relics.

📍 181-199 Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan
 ☎ +852 2806 8280
 🌐 www.liangyimuseum.com



17 H Queen's

This newly opened 24-storey vertical art space is currently home to eight world-class galleries and auction houses including David Zwirner, Hauser & Wirth, Tang Contemporary Art, as well as Hong Kong's very own Pearl Lam Galleries. But what sets H Queen's apart from other art spaces in the city is its massive venues. Expect an elevated art-viewing experience at these multi-floor galleries and plenty of large-scale installations that wouldn't fit in other locations.

📍 80 Queen's Road Central, Central
 ☎ +852 2343 1738
 🌐 www.hqueens.com.hk



STREET ART

The streets and walls of Old Town Central often double as canvases for gorgeous works of graffiti. Keep an eye out for these murals as you stroll around the neighbourhood.



18 21A Lyndhurst Terrace

It's hard to miss the massive portrait of a man surrounded by rising bubbles on the slopes of Cochrane Street. Set against the black mosaic tiles of Lush Spa, Hong Kong-based French muralist Elsa Jean de Dieu has injected her signature joy and lightness to the bustling streets of Soho. The mural is also one of many born out of the HK Walls 2018 project.



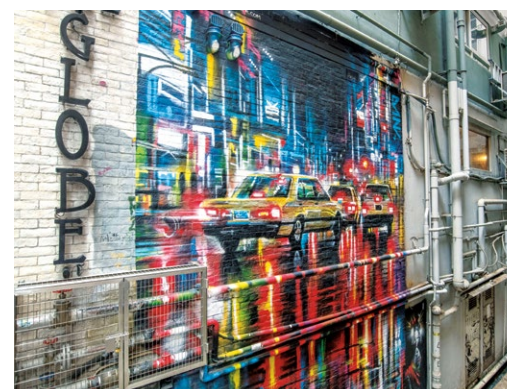
19 42 Staunton Street

A street art pioneer from China, SENK has decorated the wall of an unassuming staircase that is George's Lane as part of the HK Walls Festival in 2018. Step in between the residential buildings of Staunton Street and you'll be greeted by SENK's striking and vibrant mural done in his signature old-school graffiti lettering-style. It certainly adds a splash of colour to an otherwise quiet back alley.



20 82 Hollywood Road

Danish urban contemporary artist Christian Storm combines geometric elements and Chinese culture in this eye-catching mural of two giant koi fish swimming. Navigate past the many historic antique shops and art galleries to admire how Storm is able to transform a simple blank wall into a vertical body of water.



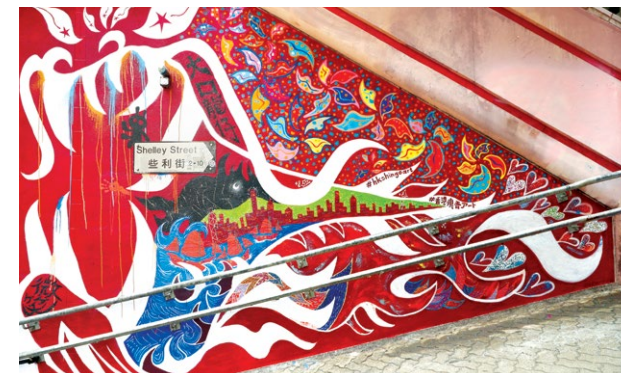
21 45-53 Graham Street

This hidden mural painting is done by renowned British street artist Dan Kitchener in his self-described urban impressionism-style. Viewers have to peek in between two units to be rewarded with a romantic depiction of a rainy New York evening in soft neon lighting, tucked away in this narrow alley.



22 46 Graham Street / 48 Hollywood Road

Without a doubt the most photographed example of street art in Hong Kong, local graffiti artist Alex Croft's colourful mural of old townhouses shines a light on the city's iconic tong lau tenement buildings. Boasting a vibrant blue background, this piece of street art is a vibrant and colourful window into the past.



23 Shingo Art

Japanese celebrity Shingo Katori has recently joined the fray of the Hong Kong street art scene to present a vibrant, red painting underneath one section of the Central-Mid-Levels escalator. The choice of colour, the Bauhinia motifs and the miniature skyline are all in tribute to Hong Kong. Take a step back and you'll find that together, these elements form an image of a dragon.

📍 Intersection of Hollywood Road and Shelley Street



24 Madera Hollywood Hotel

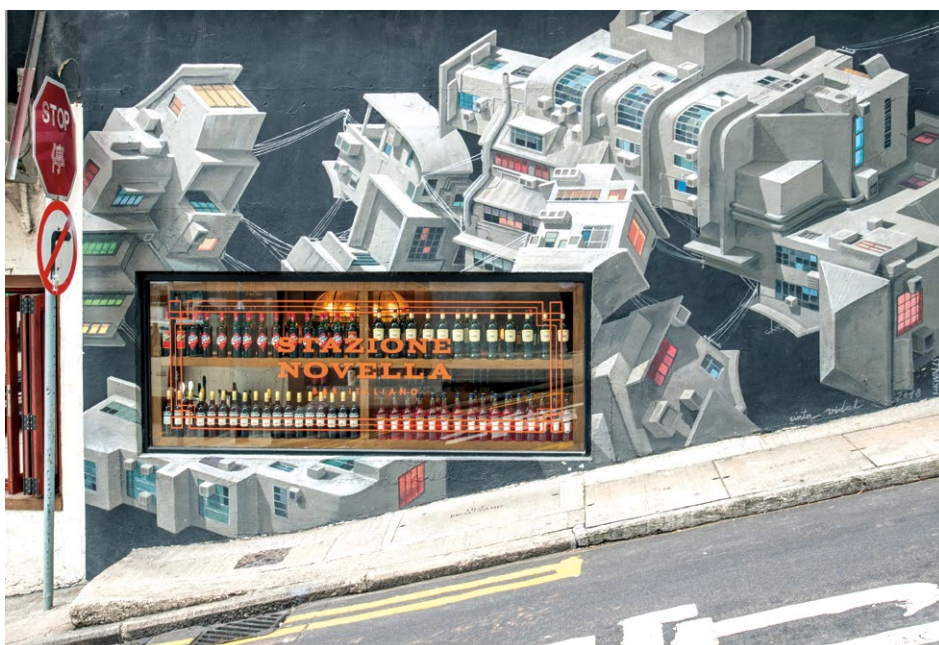
Nothing screams star power like the iconic figures of Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn and Charlie Chaplin. Covering the facade of this Hollywood Road hotel, the screen legends, accompanied by Frank Sinatra, are painted in pop art-like style in front of imagery of the Hong Kong skyline. Here's your chance to get a selfie with these Hollywood greats.

📍 53 Hollywood Road, Central



25 Tank Lane

Paying tribute to the one and only Bruce Lee, South Korean graffiti artist Xeva used his signature mosaic technique to create this large mural, which captures the likeness of the martial arts superstar. Strike a jeet kune do pose next to the graffiti at this staircase for the perfect Hong Kong snapshot.



26 52-56 Staunton Street

Almost like a scene from the movie, *Inception*, Spanish illustrator Cinta Vidal Agulló has created a mind-bending piece featuring inverted architecture and gravity-defying grey buildings. Taking over the facade of Italian bar Stazione Novella, Agulló invites passersby to take a pause and re-examine reality on this steep slope of Aberdeen Street.



ARTLANE

Discover more wonderful street art Hong Kong has to offer and venture out towards Sai Ying Pun's ARTLANE, where local and international artists have turned the building walls of Ki Ling Lane and Chung Ching Street into a kaleidoscopic canvas.

📍 ARTLANE, Sai Ying Pun



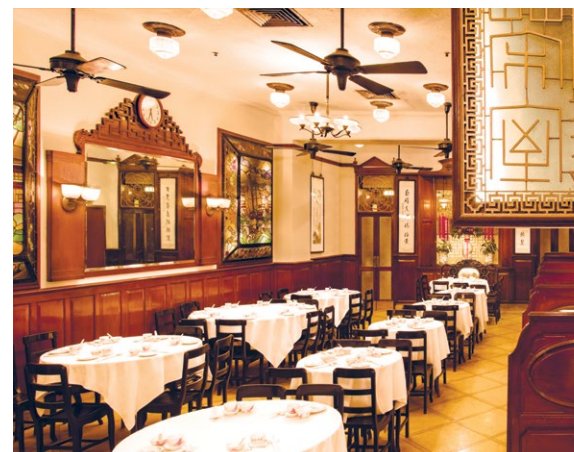
Tasting Hong Kong

A true food paradise, Old Town Central is a melting pot of flavours with something to sate all tastes. If you're looking for an authentic taste of Hong Kong, there's plenty here that fits the bill, from traditional dim sum to baked treats sold at shops that have stood the test of time. Of course, the culinary landscape here is also influenced by Hong Kong's status as a multicultural, trend-setting metropolis, and you'll find plenty of Michelin-starred restaurants here, as well as cutting-edge fusion cuisine and cocktail bars that rank among the best in the world.



TRADITIONAL CHINESE FLAVOURS

These time-honoured eateries are loved for their authentic Chinese fare, be it Cantonese dim sum or traditional baked treats.



27 Luk Yu Teahouse

Established in 1933, this three-storey restaurant boasts plenty of old-world charm, especially with its colonial design juxtaposed with traditional Chinese furnishings. It's also one of the best spots in town for an authentic dim sum meal, served with a wide variety of expertly brewed teas. The restaurant also offers larger dishes for dinner, such as the signature sweet and sour pork and roasted crispy chicken.

24 Stanley Street,
Central
+852 2523 5464



28 Lan Fong Yuen

If you want a cup of Hong Kong-style milk tea, head to Lan Fong Yuen. The popular beverage was influenced by British culture but is made with evaporated milk and sugar. Be sure to try the famous "silk stocking milk tea" which is passed through a fine mesh to give it a particularly smooth texture. While Lan Fong Yuen's original street stall still stands under the Central-Mid-Levels escalator, head to the restaurant next door for dishes such as the chicken noodles with scallion oil.

2 Gage Street, Central
+852 2544 3895



29 Sing Heung Yuen

Housed in a wide alleyway, this dai pai dong (open-air food stall) may not look particularly fancy but it's perpetually packed with customers who come from all corners of the city for the signature tomato noodle soup and crispy buns with lemon and honey. Cheap, cheerful and immensely comforting, the food here is so popular that even local celebrities have been spotted eating here. Drop by for an afternoon bite after browsing nearby attractions such as Pak Tsz Lane Park and PMQ.

2 Mee Lun Street, Sheung Wan
+852 2544 8368



30 Tai Cheong

Fancy a piping hot, silky and irresistibly aromatic egg tart? Grab one from Tai Cheong Bakery. With more than 60 years of history, this time-tested shop used to be a favourite of Hong Kong's last colonial governor, Chris Patten. Although the bakery now has branches all across the city, the original location on Lyndhurst Terrace remains the most iconic.

📍 35 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central
 ☎ +852 8300 8301
 🌐 www.taoheung.com.hk/en/brands/tai_cheong/index.html



31 Kung Lee Herbal Tea Shop

Founded in the 1940s, Kung Lee is still loved and frequented by many locals. The store retains much of its old-school features, including its wooden fixtures, ceramic tiles and ceiling fans. On the menu, the sugarcane juice is the bestseller. Peeled and steamed using traditional methods, the sugarcane is pressed with an antique juicer to produce a refreshingly sweet beverage that supposedly boasts a host of health benefits. Also don't miss the sugarcane pudding and various herbal teas.

📍 60 Hollywood Road, Central
 ☎ +852 2544 3571



32 Chan Yee Jai

Want to bring a traditional Hong Kong-style snack back home? Then be sure to visit Chan Yee Jai. Founded in 1927, the store offers a wide variety of traditional Chinese confections, including almond biscuits, haw flakes, preserved lemon and plum, bird's nest cakes, sesame cakes and more.

📍 176B Queen's Road Central, Central
 ☎ +852 2543 8414
 🌐 www.chanyeejai.com.hk
 (Chinese only)



MODERN DELIGHTS

Get a taste of Hong Kong's contemporary dining scene, which offers everything from reimagined Canto classics to international fare served in stylish surrounds.



33 Duddell's

This Michelin-starred restaurant brings together fine art and fine dining. Boasting a spacious terrace and elegant interiors, Duddell's offers modern takes on traditional Cantonese cuisine with signatures such as barbecued iberico pork with honey glaze and supreme lobster noodles. Guests can also enjoy exquisite dim sum as well as innovative, Asian-inspired cocktails.

📍 3/F, Shanghai Tang Mansion, 1 Duddell Street, Central
 ☎ +852 2525 9191
 🌐 www.duddells.co

34 Duddell Street Starbucks

After a meal at Duddell's just down the street, be sure to pay a visit to the first-ever Starbucks in the world to have a section dedicated to 'bing sutt' – a type of traditional Hong Kong café popular in the 1950s through to the 1970s. The retro-inspired décor provides plenty of great photo opportunities and makes for a fun backdrop while you sip on a latte or Frappuccino.

📍 Shop M2, M/F, Baskerville House, 13 Duddell Street, Central
 ☎ +852 2523 5685
 🌐 www.starbucks.com.hk



35 Oddies

No visit to Hong Kong is complete without a taste of the bubble-shaped waffles known as eggettes, or 'gai daan zai' in Cantonese. While they're available at a lot of street stalls in town, Oddies puts a modern, Instagram-worthy spin on this beloved local snack by serving them in playful flavours with thick swirls of gelato. Keep it simple with the original eggette, or indulge in one of the decadent parfaits with ingredients such as homemade matcha ice cream, peanut butter sauce, Nutella and more.

📍 45 Gough Street, Sheung Wan
☎ +852 2750 2111



36 Happy Paradise

This funky, neon-noir venue is the brainchild of May Chow, who was voted Asia's best female chef in 2017. The food and drinks are just as avant garde as the décor, with Chinese-inspired cocktails – including one flavoured after Hong Kong lemon tea – and dishes such as Szechuan fried chicken with pickled daikon, and beef tongue salad with Chiu Chow spiced soy and pickled young ginger.

📍 UG/F, 52-56 Staunton Street, Central (entrance on Aberdeen Street)
☎ +852 2816 2118
🌐 www.happyparadise.hk



37 Teakha

Tucked away at the end of Tai Ping Shan Street, close to temples such as Kwong Fook I Tsz, this tiny café is the perfect spot to spend a lazy afternoon. As the name suggests, the brew of choice here is tea, of which there is plenty. The leaves are sourced from small plantations all across the globe, with choices ranging from Hong Kong-style milk tea to cold-brewed oolong. Be sure to also try some of Teakha's rustic, homemade cakes, such as the popular matcha snow chiffon.

📍 Shop B, 18 Tai Ping Shan Street, Sheung Wan
☎ +852 2858 9185
🌐 www.teakha.com

38 Old Bailey

Housed within the heritage and arts hub of Tai Kwun, this gorgeous, contemporary restaurant offers refined renditions of traditional Jiangnan cuisine. Encompassing the cooking of Shanghai, Yangzhou and Hangzhou, among other cities south of the Yangtze River, this regional cuisine favours subtle and clean flavours, as demonstrated by Old Bailey's signature offerings such as longjing tea smoked pigeon and the soothing duck soup with jinhou ham and handmade fishballs.

📍 2/F, JC Contemporary, Tai Kwun, Old Bailey Street, Central
☎ +852 2877 8711
🌐 www.oldbailey.hk





39 La Petite Maison

This popular Niçoise restaurant has locations all over the world, including in London, Miami, Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Like the original location in Nice, the Hong Kong branch serves delicious, French-Mediterranean cuisine with a focus on quality ingredients and authentic flavours. Signature dishes include escargots, whole roasted chicken stuffed with foie gras and, of course, the salad Niçoise.

📍 1/F, H Queen's, 80 Queen's Road Central, Central
 ☎ +852 2887 1113
 🌐 lpmlondon.co.uk/hongkong



40 Fukuro

This modern izakaya serves delicious sharing plates in a fun and boisterous environment. Signature dishes include jet-fresh raw seafood, crisp tempura items and various tasty morsels cooked on the robata grill. In true izakaya fashion, the tipples of choice include quality highballs and premium sakes.

📍 1-5 Elgin Street, Central
 ☎ +852 2333 8841
 🌐 www.fukuro.com.hk

WORLD-CLASS BARS

Whether you're in the mood for wines, cocktails or just a great spot to hang out at, these fantastic bars are worth raising a glass to.

41 Foxglove

Decked out in glamorous, 1950s-style fashion, this elegant watering hole has the added fun of being hidden behind the mock exterior of an umbrella shop. The bar focuses on creative takes on classic cocktails, including the Fox Martini made with sake, gin, grapefruit bitters and maraschino cherry. Aside from sipping on these carefully crafted libations, you can also enjoy live music performances on most nights. Insider's tip: this hidden bar also boasts its own hidden bar in the form of Frank's Library – a speakeasy that focuses on premium drinks.

📍 G/F, 18 Ice House Street/6 Duddell Street, Central
 ☎ +852 2116 8949
 🌐 <https://mingfathouse.com/restaurants/foxglove>



42 Room 309

Opened by Hong Kong's leading mixologist, Antonio Lai, Room 309 is a discreet bar hidden within The Pottinger hotel off the steps of Pottinger Street. Guests must request for a key card from its sister bar, The Envoy, before they are granted access. Once inside, you'll find an intimate space that plays on one's imagination with features such as an invisible menu and expertly crafted cocktails that are crystal clear in appearance.

📍 3/F, The Pottinger Hong Kong, 74 Queen's Road Central, Central
 🌐 www.room309.hk



43 The Old Man

Ranked tenth by the World's 50 Best Bars awards, The Old Man is undoubtedly one of the finest places for a drink in the whole of Hong Kong. There's impeccable attention to detail here, as demonstrated by the L-shaped bar, which has a cooling strip running down the middle to keep drinks chilled. Expect excellent and elegant cocktails – many of which take inspiration from the words and stories of esteemed American novelist, Ernest Hemingway.

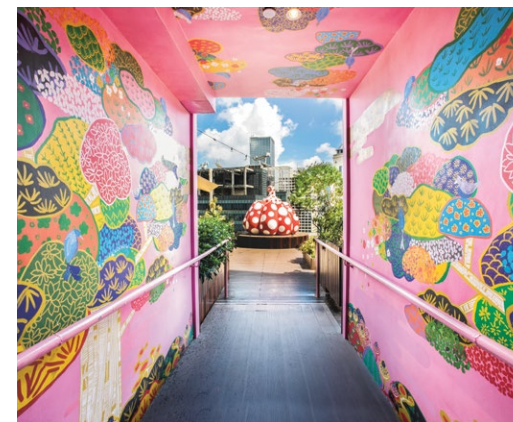
📍 37 Aberdeen Street, Central
 ☎ +852 2703 1899
 🌐 www.theoldmanhk.com



44 Piquiq

This rooftop terrace is one of the coolest places in town to wine, dine and be merry. Complementing the stunning views, the space is decorated with one of the iconic polka-dot pumpkins by world-renowned Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. In this stylish and whimsical space, chill out on one of the comfy beanbags and enjoy wines, cocktails and a variety of 'piquiq' baskets filled with international dishes ranging from charcuterie and cheese to spicy tuna maki and the thick-cut 'Wagyu Sando'.

📍 R/F, H Queen's, 80 Queens Road Central, Central
 ☎ +852 5200 1683
 🌐 www.lecomptoir.hk/piquiq



45 Cé La Vi

A place to see and be seen, this tri-level space in the heart of Hong Kong's nightlife hub of Lan Kwai Fong boasts a contemporary Asian restaurant, a lounge and sky deck, and a swanky rooftop bar. The latter offers intoxicating night views of Central and beyond and is an understandably popular drinking spot, especially during the weekends. You can also often catch popular DJs here for some serious partying.

📍 25/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar Street, Central
 ☎ +852 3700 2300
 🌐 hk.celavi.com



46 The Iron Fairies

With sumptuous interiors by renowned designer Ashley Sutton, The Iron Fairies feels like it belongs in the pages of a fairy tale. The most stunning features here are the 10,000 butterflies that dangle elegantly from the ceiling, as well as the miniature, iron-wrought fairy figures that adorn the tables. It's a wonderfully whimsical place to enjoy exquisitely prepared cocktails and comfort food such as mini grilled cheese sandwiches and handcrafted burgers.

📍 LG/F, Chinachem Hollywood Centre,
 1-13 Hollywood Road, Central
 ☎ +852 2603 6992
 🌐 www.diningconcepts.com/restaurants/Iron-Fairies





Treasure Hunt

A neighbourhood as steeped in history as it is brimming with style, Old Town Central is the perfect place to seek out a unique gift or memento to bring back home. Whether you want to visit a local market, comb through an antique store or look your best at one of the many fashionable concept shops, this happening area boasts no shortage of gems waiting for treasure hunters to discover.

OLD HONG KONG TREASURES

From traditional crafts to antique souvenirs, these shops and stalls offer plenty of old-school gems that are perfect as souvenirs.



47 Upper Lascar Row

The highlight of Upper Lascar Row is the seemingly endless row of antique stores, offering an eclectic collection of Chinese calligraphy, art and vintage furniture. This runs parallel to stalls that sell an array of bric-à-brac collectibles, such as Mao Zedong alarm clocks and Bruce Lee posters. In recent years, local designer boutiques and vintage clothing stores have popped up nearby, attracting more locals as well as visitors.

📍 Upper Lascar Row, Sheung Wan

48 Linva Tailor

In business since 1965, Linva Tailor on Cochrane Street shot to fame after the period drama blockbuster, *In the Mood for Love*, featured its custom-made cheongsams. These dresses were commonly worn in Hong Kong up to the 1960s and 1970s, and at Linva, you can find an exquisite, ready-to-wear collection, and also order one that's tailor-made.

📍 38 Cochrane Street, Central
☎ +852 2544 2456





49 Chu Wing Kee

This iconic neighbourhood homeware shop is a treasure trove of household goods from a time gone by. A dwindling sight in Hong Kong, Chu Wing Kee is a place where you can find stacks of old-school crockery and teapots, bamboo baskets dangling from the ceiling, and feather dusters and kerosene stoves tucked away in corners. Forget mass-produced modern items and opt for these classic and affordable Hong Kong products, which also make for great souvenirs.

📍 24 Possession Street, Sheung Wan
☎ +852 2545 8751



50 Graham Street Market

With more than a century's history, Graham Street Market is a great place to experience life as a local. The sloped street is flanked by food stalls on either side, selling everything from fresh vegetables to live seafood. Along the market, you'll also find traditional shops selling items that are great as souvenirs. For example, founded in 1917, the Kowloon Soy Company (9 Graham Street, Central, +852 2544 3697) is renowned for its soy sauce made with traditional techniques.

FUN AND QUIRKY FINDS

Be prepared to be surprised and delighted at these unique shops, which offer everything from vintage dresses and jewellery to floral teas packaged in beautiful boxes.

51 Select 18

Treasure hunters will be delighted at Select 18, a place caught up in time with a carefully curated collection of treasures ranging from vintage spectacles, bags and hats to old radios and vinyl records, among other items amassed by owner Mido, a Hongkonger of Indian descent. An avid collector of Scandinavian furniture and eyewear, Mido also has a taste for vintage items, as reflected by the collectibles he personally gathered or received from relatives abroad.

📍 18 Bridges Street, Central
☎ +852 2549 2589



52 InBetween

This blue-clad vintage store is found on Tai Ping Shan Street, the backbone of a bohemian neighbourhood of galleries, teahouses and design studios known as Poho. The store houses an international collection of vintage goods, ranging from decanters to film posters, and from vinyl records to lapel pins. The store is also home to a selection of local designer products.

📍 6B Tai Ping Shan Street, Sheung Wan
☎ +852 9751 3644

53 Label Chic

Originally from Paris, Label Chic's founder, H  lo  se Mendes, not only champions a world of super-luxe designer brands for women, but also the eco-friendly (and bargainous) concept of second-hand wear. Visit her showroom and enjoy a coffee as you browse through the impressive range of affordable items from Chanel, Saint Laurent and other luxury brands.

3/F, Gough Plaza, 33 Gough Street, Central
+852 6254 2010
labelchicboutique.com



54 Hipster 9

This vintage store started out among the elderly hawkers of Hollywood Road before moving to its current location. With unique designs and an old-school European vibe, it's home to a vast collection of designer bags, brass jewellery from the 1950s, vintage leather jackets and many other treasures to intrigue even the most discerning of customers.

140 Wellington Street, Central
+852 2310 8006



55 ABoutique

Founded in 2011, ABoutique is committed to showcasing contemporary emerging labels and timeless designs to Hong Kong shoppers and fashionistas. Pick from a great variety of eye-catching brands such as Sigerson Morrison, Uribe and the Olsen Twins' Elizabeth and James. With its wide selection of chic outfits, shoes and accessories, you can easily find a new wardrobe here that will help you stand out from the crowd.

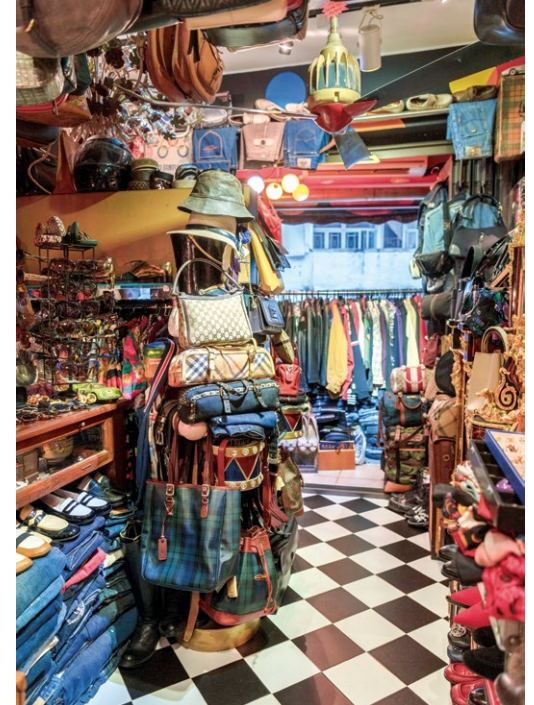
19 Aberdeen Street, Central
+852 2851 6055
www.aboutique.hk



56 Bang Bang 70s

As its name suggests, this funky vintage store specialises in 1970s fashion and apparel. Here, you can rummage through a myriad of groovy clothing and memorabilia that'll have you nostalgic for the disco days. Turn Bang Bang's checkered tiled floors into your personal dance floor as you try on everything from platform boots to rare retro bags and even pre-loved luxury clothing and accessories.

1/F, 16A Aberdeen Street, Central
+852 6461 7448



57 Audrey

Inspired by the old-world elegance of film icon Audrey Hepburn, this beautifully adorned space on Gough Street sells dried flower bouquets, skincare products and antiques sourced from all parts of the world. The main attraction though, is undoubtedly the wall mounted with glass dispensers filled with different pastel-hued floral teas, which you can mix and match in a book-shaped gift box.

4-6 Gough Street Central
+852 2526 8036
www.msaudrey.com

UNIQUE CONCEPT STORES

More than mere retail stores, these chic boutiques double as lifestyle concepts, offering a range of curated products to suit different needs.

58 Château Zoobeetle

Château Zoobeetle is a cosy little shop where French sisters Elsa and Johanna, who own the luxury leather goods brand, Zoobeetle, display their carefully curated selection of clothing, accessories, CDs and furniture. Enjoy a glass of champagne and French tunes at the open kitchen and bar area of this treasure trove as you celebrate *le joie de vivre*.

📍 38 Sai Street, Sheung Wan
☎ +852 5331 5126
🌐 www.zoobeetle.com



59 Tunique

Casual chic is the name of the game here. French-born Korean entrepreneur Amandine de Mascarel founded Tunique as a way to bring the best of French style and living to Hong Kong. She personally handpicks every product in the store; whether it's artisan jewellery, chic shoulder bags or even home décor pieces, each article you'll find here encapsulates de Mascarel's vision of elegance and that certain French flair.

📍 12 Gough Street, Central
☎ +852 2896 0329
🌐 www.tunique.com



60 The Refinery

As the name suggest, this quaint shop houses a plethora of refined products and carefully curated range of trendy clothes, accessories and lifestyle brands from every corner of the globe. Be amused by wacky phone cases and accessories like giant banana earrings and animal-shaped speakers, as well as limited-edition beauty items you won't find anywhere else in the city.

📍 Unit S410, PMQ, 35 Aberdeen Street, Central
☎ +852 2858 4033
🌐 www.therefinery.com.hk

MODERN HANDICRAFTS

These shops offer beautiful, handmade items, with some even offering workshops that allow you to create your own.



61 Loveramics

Redefining ceramics as more than just kitchenware, Hong Kong-founded Loveramics designs fun and energetic goods that brighten up any table or countertop. Marvel at a dizzying collection of themed plates, colourful mugs, teapots, coffee makers and cooking tools, and feel free to coordinate or mix and match. You can't go wrong with the classic collections, but the contemporary and quirky designs will certainly spruce up any kitchen.

📍 Shop 104, Barrack Block, Tai Kwun, 10 Hollywood Rd, Central
☎ +852 2884 0003
🌐 www.loveramics.com



62 Hong Kong Oapes

A homegrown brand through and through, Hong Kong Oapes takes inspiration from local culture and characteristics to deliver handcrafted jewellery that features motifs such as egg tarts, pineapple buns, Chinese lanterns and even the iconic Victoria Harbour. From gold-plated sterling silver to semi-precious stones, adorn yourself with one-of-a-kind accessories and memories of the city.

📍 Unit H310, Block B, PMQ, 35 Aberdeen Street, Central
☎ +852 3520 2460
🌐 www.hkoapes.com



63 Soul Art Shop

Originally from Beijing, Soul Art Shop aims to convey a sense of tranquility, honesty and positivity through art. The store sells colourful clay handicrafts, cloth dolls and jewellery that fuse Chinese tradition with modern aesthetics. If you have some extra time, sign up for one of its workshops, where you can learn to make your own one-of-a-kind clay handicraft to bring back home.

📍 Shop A, 24-26 Aberdeen Street, Central
☎ +852 2857 7786
🌐 shop.soulartshop.com

HIGHLIGHT ROUTE

There's no shortage of attractions in Old Town Central, from decades-old temples to chic rooftop bars. To help you make the most of your time in this vibrant neighbourhood, we've put together this highlight route, which allows you to discover some of the best historic monuments, shops and restaurants in the area. Whether you're looking to learn about the colourful heritage of this district or sample some delicious local eats, this walking tour will introduce you to the very best that Old Town Central has to offer while also helping you to discover some other hidden gems along the way.



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Possession Street
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2
Chu Wing Kee
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3
Tai Ping Shan Street
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4
Upper Lascar Row
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5
Man Mo Temple
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6
Pak Tsz Lane Park
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HONG KONG TOURISM BOARD VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES

Hong Kong International Airport Visitor Centre

- 📍 Buffer Halls A and B, Arrivals Level, Terminal 1
- 🕒 8am to 9pm daily

Hong Kong Island Visitor Centre

- 📍 The Peak Piazza (between The Peak Tower and The Peak Galleria)
- 🕒 11am to 8pm daily

Kowloon Visitor Centre

- 📍 Star Ferry Concourse, Tsim Sha Tsui
- 🕒 8am to 8pm daily

Hong Kong West Kowloon Station Visitor Centre

- 📍 B2 Level, Arrival Concourse, Hong Kong West Kowloon Station

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port Visitor Centre

- 📍 G/F, Passenger Clearance Building, Hong Kong Port

Lo Wu Information Centre

- 📍 2/F Arrival Hall, Lo Wu Terminal Building



HONG KONG TRAVEL BUDDY

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Visitor Hotline:

+852 2508 1234



info@discoverhongkong.com



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