

The Flag of Hong Kong

Hong Kong



Hong Kong is one of the most special administrative regions of the People's Republic of China, followed by Macau. It is officially called the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and is located on the eastern side of the Pearl River Delta. Initially started as a trading port in 1699, Hong Kong has developed into one of the world's leading commercial, manufacturing, trading, financial and tourism centres.

History

After losing the first Opium War (1839-1842) fought between China and Britain, England gained control over Hong Kong Island through The Treaty of Nanking on

29th August, 1842. After the Chinese defeat in the second Opium War (1856-1858), Kowloon Peninsula was perpetually leased which formally ended the whole Opium War. Forty years later, i.e. on the 1st of July, 1898, the New Territories were also leased to the United Kingdom for 99 years. As such, Hong Kong Island, Kowloon Peninsula and the New Territories all became part of the crown colony. Such lease expired on the 30th June 1997, and the handover ceremony took place at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre where Hong Kong was returned to China on the 1st of July, 1997, ending more than 150 years of British colonial rule, but Hong Kong's unique free enterprise policy would remain for at least 50 years, under the slogan "One country, two systems." Tung Chee Hwa became the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hong Kong.

More about Hong Kong:



Capital: None

Geography:

Area: 1,104 sq km
(Includes Hong Kong, Kowloon, New Territories and other small islands)

Terrain: Hilly

Climate: Tropical Monsoon

People:

Population: 6.9 Million (6250 people per sq km)

Population Growth Rate: 0.9%

Religions: 9.6% Christian, 43% others

Languages: Cantonese (a dialect of Chinese) and English

Education: 9-year free & compulsory education from P1 to F3

Economy:

Currency: Hong Kong Dollars (\$)

Industry:

Textiles, clothing, electronics, plastic, toys, watches, clocks, etc.

Trade: Exports: \$315.5 billion (clothing, electronics etc.)

Imports: \$333.3 billion (raw materials, goods, fuels etc.)

Government:

Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China

Weather:

Spring: cool and humid

Summer: hot and humid with occasional typhoons

Autumn: warm and fine, at times breezy

Winter: cold and dry

Hong Kong Money

Coins:



Ten dollar coin



Five dollar coin



Two dollar coin



One dollar coin



Fifty Cents



Twenty Cents



Ten Cents

Notes: (These notes are mostly from HSBC, others can be from other banks e.g. Bank of China)



This bit is transparent



Over the years, the Hong Kong Ten Dollar Note has changed its looks numerous times. These two are the main ones that people recognise most.





The 1000 HK dollar note is the highest valued banknote among all HK banknotes.

Hong Kong Hot-Spots:

- International Financial Centre (IFC)
- Victoria Peak
- Stanley
- Repulse Bay
- Victoria Harbour
- Lan Kwai Fong
- Soho



Hong Kong Shopping:

'The Pearl of the Orient'- that's what they call Hong Kong, for there you can have the ultimate shopping experience. Unlike many other countries, Hong Kong's shops stay up till late and shoppers never dies down-some even stay open until midnight! Main shopping malls, e.g. 'IFC' and 'Elements', are always packed with shoppers, and the queues keep on growing longer.



in Hong Kong is so fiercely exciting is because almost every main shopping area is surrounded by public transport, making it very convenient. One of the main attractions of Hong Kong is it's shopping, and tourists have described Hong Kong as a 'Shopping Paradise'.

Hong Kong Dining

Besides shopping, Hong Kong is also renowned for its huge variety of food. Its dining has changed massively over the past 100 years. Once a British colony, Hong Kong's dining scene is a mixture of east and west. One of Hong Kong's most famous dishes amongst tourists is *dim sum* (literally meaning 'a touch of the heart'). From the finest dining in 5-star hotel restaurants to the hawker *dai pai dongs* – Hong Kong has it all.



Interesting food facts:

- Moon Cake tells a story of a man called Liu in the Yuan Dynasty wanting to reform against the Mongolian. He inserted pieces of small paper with the reform message inside small moon cakes and passed on the cakes to the locals. People read the note, united together and struck a successful revolution in the end.
- Egg tart's popularity zoomed when our last Governor from England, Chris Patten was captured in all the newspapers, gorging into his favourite *darn tart* (egg tart).
- "Beggar Chicken" (baked stuffed chicken wrapped in lotus leaf) on the Beijing restaurant menu tells a story of a beggar trying to hide his stolen chicken by wrapping it in a leaf and burying it in deep soil. Moments later, he dug it up only to find that the raw poultry had been 'cooked' under the hot sun. He tasted it and found it yummy!
- *ung* (rice wrapped in lotus leaf) eaten during Mid-Autumn Festival is the story of Wat Yuen, the loyal adviser to the emperor in the 4th Century, who jumped into the river after he was expelled from the empire. Bereaved fishermen tossed the *jung* into the river feeding the fish so they would eat the *jung* but not Wat Yuen.



Assorted Jung



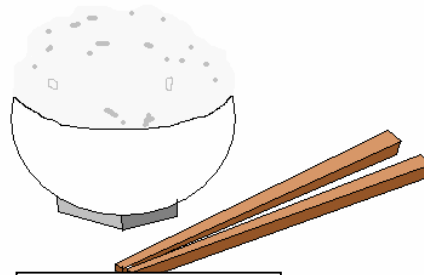
Steamed dim sum



Moon cakes and tin



Assorted dim sum



Rice & chopsticks



Egg tart