



Climb the steps to the Big Buddha opposite the Po Lin Monastery

(this page and opposite) Photo courtesy of Hong Kong Tourism Board



Hanging incense coils inside Man Mo Temple provide a tranquil respite

Orient Escape

Indulge in the height of luxury in Hong Kong

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Sharing its northern border with mainland China, Hong Kong is one of the world's most densely populated, not to mention expensive, metropolises. Known for its striking skyline and lush green hills surrounding a deep, natural harbor,

Hong Kong is a vibrant melting pot of culture, cuisine and history.

Meaning "fragrant harbour" in Cantonese, Hong Kong has come to represent an international community that is synonymous with business and luxury. Five-star hotels abound amid

a sea of Michelin-star restaurants ranked as the best in Asia. Shopping, spa treatments and outdoor activities make Hong Kong the perfect place for an indulgent getaway. Here, our guide to the Far East capital of extravagance.



best city views

The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong is home to Ozone, the highest bar in the world. An elevator whisks guests up to the top floor in seconds, revealing stunning views of the city from its perch atop Kowloon.

In the evening, Sevva is one of the best rooftop bars in Hong Kong, affording a magical view of the lit-up skyline. For something off the beaten path, try Ping Pong Gintoneria, a hip spot offering unique cocktails, or 001 Speakeasy, a hidden bar in the middle of Graham Street Wet Market. Keep your eyes open or you may just miss the door to this exclusive bar.



where to stay

THE LANGHAM HONG KONG After the recently completed \$30 million renovation given to The Langham Hong Kong, the hotel recalls a luxurious European fashion house. Guest rooms and suites feature lounge areas, fireplaces and lofty views of Canton Road.

Personal services set a new five-star benchmark with dedicated Guest Experience Managers catering to bespoke requests, from unpacking suitcases and color-coding clothes in wardrobes, to personalizing pillows and room temperatures.

Headlining the new look for the luxury hotel, located in the heart of Tsim Sha Tsui, is Palm Court, a lounge glamorously restyled after its namesake at The Langham, London, where traditional British afternoon tea was first served more than a century ago.

Under the culinary direction of Executive Chef Pedro Samper, guests can indulge in a sweet and savory Afternoon Tea, where specialty teas are served in tailor-made “Langham Rose” Wedgwood Chinaware with a special menu by the creative pastry team. And, of course, not to be missed is the hotel’s three Michelin-star T’ang Court Cantonese restaurant.

INTERCONTINENTAL HONG KONG Located on the Kowloon waterfront overlooking Victoria Harbour and Hong Kong Island, InterContinental Hong Kong is known for its hospitality, duly noted with its high staff to guest ratio. They also make sure guests can tour the city in style, maintaining a fleet of Mercedes limousines, a Bentley and two Phantom VI Rolls-Royces for hire.

Renowned for its magnificent panoramic views of the city’s aforementioned wonders, with three-story plate-glass wrap-around windows, the recently renovated Lobby Lounge is one of Hong Kong’s most picturesque spots to have drinks.

(clockwise from top left) Entrance to The Palm Court at The Langham Hong Kong (courtesy TLHK); Enjoy wrap-around views of Hong Kong harbour over drinks in the InterContinental Hong Kong Lobby Lounge (courtesy IHK); Indulge in a traditional Chinese treatment at the Spa at Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong (courtesy FSHK).

The hotel also offers a “Cooking with the Culinary Stars” series, a unique, hands-on dining experience that allows guests to learn the art of cooking alongside celebrated chefs at the hotel’s distinguished restaurants: SPOON by Alain Ducasse (one Michelin star), Yan Toh Heen (two Michelin stars) and The Steak House, as well as the property’s exclusive location of NOBU.

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL HONG KONG The epitome of global luxury, the Spa at Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong doesn’t disappoint. The Chinese Wellness Ritual is a decadent experience designed to harness the body’s natural *Qi* energy field to achieve total inner and outer beauty. Based on a beauty regimen once reserved for royalty, this therapy utilizes all-natural ingredients like cinnamon, honey and rice, items that were once so treasured they were available only to the most elite households.

Over the course of this two-hour-plus body and massage experience, the therapist uses gentle strokes to target meridian channels and the *Qi* to promote the flow of energy, channeling beauty from within.

Michelin-star dining also awaits at The Four Seasons—three stars, to be exact. Silver and glass accents enhance the dining experience at Lung King Heen, while an undulating silver-leaf ceiling reflects Hong Kong’s glittering skyline and harbor lights.



where to shop

Tsim Sha Tsui is a giant world bazaar, where an alternate sea of stalls, shops, markets and malls meets Hong Kong’s glittering harbor. The Jade Market and Jade Street are iconic stops in Hong Kong, as jade has been long associated with extended life and good health in Chinese culture, making it a prized material for good-luck charms.

The center of Hong Kong’s business district, aptly called Central, is also prime shopping territory. Among the powerful financial institutions, there’s an equally impressive collection of designer boutiques and high-end department stores here, too.

Shops are located in a series of buildings, including Alexandra House, Chater House, Prince’s Building and The Landmark. There are widely recognized names like Prada, specialized shops such as Paule Ka for high-end French fashion, Ascot Chang for hand-tailored Italian suits and Baccarat for luxurious crystal and jewelry.

(clockwise from above) Luxury shopping at a boutique in Hong Kong; Relish the evening skyline from the Sevva Rooftop; Float through the clouds in the Ngong Ping cable car on Lantau Island. Courtesy of Hong Kong Tourism Board.



For spectacular views of Hong Kong and the best vantage point for skyline photography, visitors venture up to The Peak, the highest point on Hong Kong Island. The Peak Tram is a visual experience in its own right. Hong Kong Island’s skyscrapers slide past your window at what appear to be impossible angles as you make the ascent to The Peak on the city’s historic railway.

The longest running nightly light show in Victoria Harbour is the Symphony of Lights. Colored lights, laser beams and searchlights perform an unforgettable spectacle synchronized to music and narration, celebrating the energy, spirit and diversity of Hong Kong.

Finally, when you’re ready to slow down and take a break from the city, hit the beach. Known as Hong Kong’s “back garden,” the district of Sai Kung is located on the eastern side of Hong Kong. Warm, inviting beaches with clear water welcomes locals and visitors alike to rent boats and cruise around the many nearby islands.

To end your trip, spend a day on Lantau Island. Take the Ngong Ping 360 cable car and float through the clouds as you make your way up to the world’s largest outdoor bronzed Buddha statue. Visit the Po Lin Monastery, one of Hong Kong’s most important Buddhist sanctums and reflect on a journey well spent, experiencing the best the city has to offer.