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Welcome to  
**Hong Kong**

**This city, which echoes Chinese traditions and colourful festivals, is set amongst astounding surrounds on a wonderful natural harbour. With a combination of fantastic museums, an abundance of restaurants, vibrant nightlife, open air markets and quaint back street alleyways, this bustling metropolis offers a sharp contrast of modern living alongside a historic past. Hong Kong is indeed the Orient's brightest pearl.**

#### ▪ GETTING AROUND

It's affordable and easy to get around Hong Kong, via the Mass Transit Railway (MTR), buses and taxis. Whether you stay on the Kowloon Peninsula or Hong Kong Island, you can zip between the two in minutes, the Star Ferry being the most exciting method. And don't forget your feet – it's exciting and easy to explore this dynamic city on foot.

#### ▪ CLIMATE

Hong Kong is an all-year-round destination. From the middle of September to the end of February offers a mild climate, followed by a rather warm, humid and rainy May to mid-September. August registers the highest rainfall. January to February can get as cold as 10°C so warmer clothing is a must.

#### ▪ LANGUAGE

Cantonese is the official language in Hong Kong, however, English is widely understood.

#### ▪ WHAT TO WEAR

Hong Kong's subtropical climate means loose-fitting cotton clothing is sensible; however include a light sweater as the air-conditioning in certain establishments can be chilly. Warmer clothes are advisable from December to February whilst a light waterproof jacket is recommended for the rainy season between May and September.

The electric current is 220 volts AC (50 cycles) and the majority of electrical outlets in Hong Kong take a three-pronged plug, so you will need to take an adapter.





#### ▪ HEALTH

Generally, visitors do not require vaccinations unless coming from or passing through a designated contaminated area. Bottled mineral water is recommended.

#### ▪ PASSPORT & VISA INFORMATION

Visitors to Hong Kong require a valid passport (which must be valid for at least six months after one has RETURNED to South Africa and feature a minimum of four blank pages). South African passport holders do not require a visa for a maximum stay of 1 month; but it is advisable to check with the relevant Embassy before departure.

#### ▪ CURRENCY

The currency is the Hong Kong Dollar. US Dollars, Pounds and Euros are accepted at hotels.

#### ▪ TIPPING

A service charge is already included in all prices. Tips, in general, are not mandatory, and you should only give them if you are really content with the service offered. Waiters, bellboys, porters, restroom attendants and taxi drivers will happily accept loose change.

#### ▪ TIME DIFFERENCE

Hong Kong is 6 hours ahead of South Africa.

#### ▪ FESTIVALS

Chinese festivals are an enchanting and mesmerizing experience. Hong Kong's major traditional festivals are colourful, noisy affairs with thousands and thousands of people turning out to join the celebrations. Fireworks, festive feasting, dragon dancers, incense smoke and parades come in a variety of combinations to create a uniquely festive atmosphere seen nowhere else in the world. Popular festivals include Chinese New Year (end January/beginning February), Dragon Boat Festival (June) and the Shopping Festival (August).



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