

-[Water \(%\)](#) 4.6

Population

-2008 estimate 6,985,200[2] (98th)

-2001 census 6,708,389

-[Density](#) 6,352/km² (4th)
16,469/sq mi

GDP (PPP) 2007 estimate

-Total \$293.311 billion(38th)

-[Per capita](#) \$42,123[3] (10th)

GDP (nominal) 2007 estimate

-Total \$207.171 billion(37th)

-[Per capita](#) \$29,752[3] (27th)

Gini (2007) 43.4

HDI (2007) ▲ 0.937 (high) (21st)

Currency [Hong Kong dollar \(HKD\)](#)

Time zone [HKT \(UTC+8\)](#)

Internet TLD [.hk](#)

Calling code [+852](#)

Hong Kong ([Chinese: 香港](#)), officially the **Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**, is a territory located on [China's](#) south coast on the [Pearl River Delta](#), bordering [Guangdong](#) province to the north and facing the [South China Sea](#) to the east, west and south. It has a population of 6.9 million people, and is one of the most [densely populated areas](#) in the world.

Beginning as a trading port, Hong Kong became a [dependent territory](#) of the [United Kingdom](#) in 1842, and remained so until the [transfer of its sovereignty](#) to the [People's Republic of China](#) in 1997. Along with [Macau](#), Hong Kong is one of two [special administrative regions](#) and is not considered part of [mainland China](#) Under the "[one country, two systems](#)" policy, Hong Kong has a high degree of [autonomy](#), is largely self-governing, and maintains a highly [capitalist](#) economy.

Renowned for its expansive skyline and natural setting, Hong Kong is one of the world's leading [financial capitals](#) and a major business and cultural hub. Its identity as a cosmopolitan centre where [east](#)

meets [west](#) is reflected in its [cuisine](#), [cinema](#), [music](#) and traditions, and although the population is predominantly [Chinese](#), residents and [expatriates](#) of other ethnicities form a small but significant segment of society.

Etymology

香港

Cantonese:

- IPA: [hœːŋkɔ̃ŋ]
- [Jyutping](#): hoeng1 gong2
- [Yale](#): Hēunggóng

Hokkien:

- [POJ](#): Hiong-kang

Mandarin:

- IPA: [ɕjɑ̃ŋkɑ̃ŋ]
- [Pinyin](#): Xiānggǎng
- [Wade-Giles](#): Hsiang1-kang3

The [English](#)-language name "Hong Kong" is an approximate phonetic rendering of the [Hakka](#) or [Cantonese](#) name "香港", meaning "fragrant harbour" or "incense harbour".

The original "fragrant harbour" was a small inlet between the island of [Ap Lei Chau](#) and the south side of [Hong Kong Island](#), now known as [Aberdeen Harbour](#) in English, but still called "Heung Gong Tsai" (Little Hong Kong) in Cantonese. The fragrance came from [incense](#) grown to the north of [Kowloon](#) that was stored around Aberdeen Harbour for export, before the development of [Victoria Harbour](#). The village of Heung Gong Tsuen on Ap Lei Chau is perhaps the earliest recorded use of the name.

[[edit](#)] History

Main article: [History of Hong Kong](#)

Human settlement in the area now known as Hong Kong dates back to the [Paleolithic](#) era[*[citation needed](#)*], but the name Hong Kong (香港) didn't appear on written record until the [Treaty of Nanking](#) of 1842. The area's earliest recorded [European](#) visitor was [Jorge Álvares](#), a [Portuguese mariner](#) who arrived in 1513.

In 1839 the refusal by [Qing Dynasty](#) authorities to import [opium](#) resulted in the [First Opium War](#) between China and [Britain](#). [Hong Kong Island](#) became occupied by British forces in 1841, and was formally ceded to Britain under the [Treaty of Nanking](#) at the end of the war. The British established a

[Crown Colony](#) with the founding of [Victoria City](#) the following year. In 1860, after China's defeat in the [Second Opium War](#), [Kowloon Peninsula](#) south of [Boundary Street](#) and [Stonecutter's Island](#) were ceded to Britain under the [Convention of Peking](#). In 1898 Britain obtained a 99-year lease of [Lantau Island](#) and the adjacent northern lands, which became known as the [New Territories](#).



Hong Kong in the late [nineteenth century](#) was a major trading post of the [British Empire](#).



[Japanese](#) troops march along [Queen's Road](#) following the British surrender in 1941

During the first half of the 20th century, Hong Kong was a [free port](#), serving as an [entrepôt](#) of the [British Empire](#). The British introduced an education system based on their own model, while the local Chinese population had little contact with the European community of wealthy [tai-pans](#) settled near [Victoria Peak](#).

In conjunction with its military campaign in [World War II](#), the [Empire of Japan](#) invaded Hong Kong on 8 December 1941. The [Battle of Hong Kong](#) ended with British and [Canadian](#) defenders surrendering control of the colony to Japan on 25 December. During the [Japanese occupation](#), civilians suffered widespread [food shortages](#), [rationing](#), and [hyper-inflation](#) due to forced exchange of currency for military notes. Hong Kong lost more than half of its population in the period between the invasion and Japan's surrender in 1945, when the United Kingdom resumed control of the colony.

Hong Kong's population recovered quickly as a wave of [mainland](#) migrants arrived for refuge from the ongoing [Chinese Civil War](#). With the proclamation of the [People's Republic of China](#) in 1949, more migrants fled to Hong Kong in fear of persecution by the [Communist Party](#). Many [corporations](#) in [Shanghai](#) and [Guangzhou](#) also shifted their operations to Hong Kong. The colony became the sole place of contact between [mainland China](#) and the [Western world](#), as the Chinese communist government increasingly isolated itself from outside influence.

As textile and manufacturing industries grew with the help of population growth and low cost of labour, Hong Kong rapidly industrialised, with its economy becoming driven by exports, and living standards rising steadily. The construction of [Shek Kip Mei Estate](#) in 1953 marked the beginning of the [public housing estate](#) program, designed to cope with the huge influx of immigrants. Trade in Hong Kong accelerated even further when [Shenzhen](#), immediately north of Hong Kong, became a [Special Economic Zone](#) of the PRC, and established Hong Kong as the main source of foreign investment to the mainland. The later decades of the 20th century saw the economy shift from textiles and manufacturing to mainly services-based, as the financial and banking sectors became increasingly dominant.



Colonial flag of Hong Kong, used from 1959 to 1997

With the lease of the New Territories due to expire within two decades the governments of the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of China discussed the issue of Hong Kong's sovereignty in the 1980s. In 1984 the two countries signed the [Sino-British Joint Declaration](#), agreeing to transfer sovereignty to the People's Republic of China in 1997, and stipulating that Hong Kong would be governed as a [special administrative region](#), retaining its laws and a high degree of autonomy for at least fifty years after the transfer. The [Hong Kong Basic Law](#), which would serve as the constitutional document after the transfer, was ratified in 1990, and the [transfer of sovereignty](#) occurred at midnight on 1 July 1997, marked by a [handover ceremony](#) at the [Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre](#).

Hong Kong's economy was affected by the [Asian financial crisis](#) of 1997 that hit many [East Asian](#) markets, and the lethal [H5N1 avian influenza](#) also surfaced that year. After a gradual recovery, Hong Kong suffered again due to an outbreak of [SARS](#) in 2003. Today, Hong Kong continues to serve as an important global financial centre, but faces uncertainty over its future role with a growing [mainland China economy](#), and its relationship with the PRC government in areas such as democratic reform and universal suffrage.

Politics and government



The [Legislative Council](#), located at [Central](#), is the unicameral legislature of Hong Kong.



[Government House](#) is the official residence of the [Chief Executive](#) and previously, of [Governors](#).

In accordance with the [Sino-British Joint Declaration](#), and reflecting the policy known as "[one country, two systems](#)" by the [People's Republic of China](#), Hong Kong enjoys a high degree of autonomy as a [special administrative region](#) in all areas except defence and foreign affairs. The declaration stipulates that the region maintain its [capitalist economic system](#) and guarantees the rights and freedoms of its people for at least 50 years beyond the [1997 handover](#). The [Basic Law](#) is the [constitutional document](#) that outlines executive, legislative and judicial authorities of government, although final authority for

interpreting the Basic Law rests with the PRC government.

The government can be [split](#) into:

- **The executive:** The [Executive Council](#), headed by the [Chief Executive](#) who is elected by the [Election Committee](#) and must receive appointment by the [Central People's Government](#);
- **The legislature:** The [Legislative Council](#) with 60 members, half of which are directly elected by [universal suffrage](#), and headed by the [President of the Legislative Council](#) who serves as the [Speaker of the Council](#);
- **The Hong Kong Civil Service:** A politically neutral body that implements policies and provides government services, where public servants are appointed based on qualifications, experience and ability;
- **The judiciary:** Comprising the [Court of Final Appeal](#), the [High Court](#) (which includes the [Court of Appeal](#) and the [Court of First Instance](#)), the [District Courts](#), *et cetera*.

The Basic Law and [universal suffrage](#) have been major issues of political debate since the transfer of sovereignty. In 2002, the government's proposed [Article 23 of the Basic Law](#), which required the enactment of laws prohibiting acts of treason and subversion against the [Chinese government](#), was met with fierce opposition, and eventually shelved. Debate between pro-Beijing groups and [pro-democracy](#) groups characterises [Hong Kong's political scene](#), with the latter generally supporting a faster pace of [democratisation](#).

As it has never been a [sovereign state](#), Hong Kong has never had its own [military](#) forces. As a [British](#) colony, defence was provided by the [British military](#) under the command of the [Governor of Hong Kong](#) who was *ex officio* [Commander-in-chief](#). When the [People's Republic of China](#) assumed sovereignty in 1997, the British barracks were replaced by a [garrison of the People's Liberation Army](#), comprising [ground](#), [naval](#), and [air forces](#), and under the command of the Chinese [Central Military Commission](#). The Basic Law protects local civil affairs against interference by resident military forces, and the [Hong Kong Government](#) remains responsible for the maintenance of public order.

Legal system and judiciary



[The Court of Final Appeal](#) in [Central](#)

In contrast to [mainland China's civil law](#) system, Hong Kong continues to follow the [English Common Law](#) tradition established during British rule. Hong Kong's courts are permitted to refer to decisions ([precedents](#)) rendered by courts of other common law jurisdictions, and judges from other common law jurisdictions are allowed to participate in proceedings of Hong Kong's [Court of Final Appeal](#) and sit as Hong Kong judges.

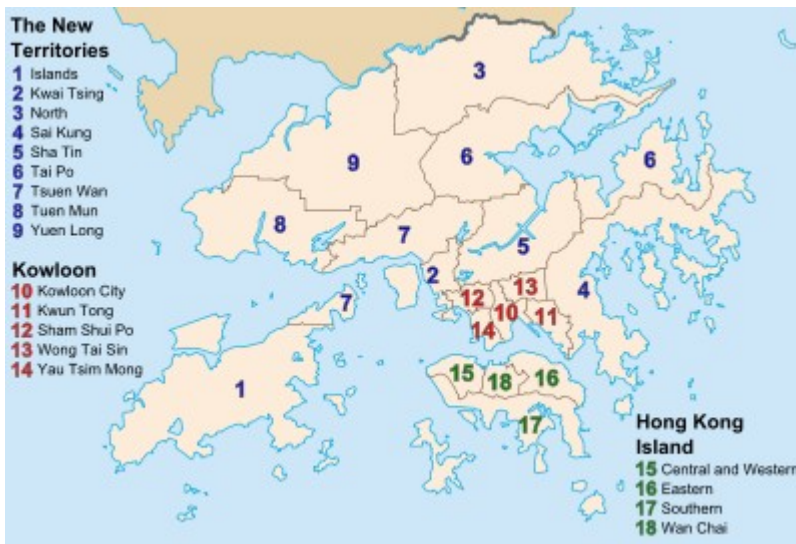
Structurally, Hong Kong's court system consists of the [Court of Final Appeal](#), the [High Court](#), which is made up of the [Court of Appeal](#) and the [Court of First Instance](#), and the [District Court](#), which includes

the [Family Court](#). Other adjudicative bodies include the Lands Tribunal, the Magistrates' Courts, the Juvenile Court, the Coroner's Court, the Labour Tribunal, the Small Claims Tribunal, and the Obscene Articles Tribunal, which is responsible for classifying non-video pornography to be circulated in Hong Kong. Justices of the [Court of Final Appeal](#) are appointed by Hong Kong's [Chief Executive](#).

The [Department of Justice](#) is the largest legal institution in Hong Kong, and its responsibilities involve [legislation](#), judicial administration, prosecution, civil representation, legal and policy drafting and reform, and the legal profession. Aside from prosecuting criminal cases, officials of the Department of Justice also appear in court on behalf of the government in all civil and administrative lawsuits against the government. As protector of the [public interest](#), it may apply for [judicial reviews](#) and assign legal representation on behalf of the public to take part in such a trial.^[35] The [Basic Law](#) protects the Department of Justice from any interference.^[36]

Administrative districts

New Territories			
No.	District	Population ^[37]	Area ^[38]
1.	Islands	138,900	175.03 km ² (67.58 sq mi)
2.	Kwai Tsing	510,300	21.82 km ² (8.42 sq mi)
3.	North	287,700	137.31 km ² (53.02 sq mi)
4.	Sai Kung	407,300	136.39 km ² (52.66 sq mi)
5.	Sha Tin	606,700	69.46 km ² (26.82 sq mi)
6.	Tai Po	292,700	147.42 km ² (56.92 sq mi)
7.	Tsuen Wan	292,300	60.7 km ² (23.44 sq mi)
8.	Tuen Mun	493,800	84.45 km ² (32.61 sq mi)
9.	Yuen Long	533,300	138.43 km ² (53.45 sq mi)
Kowloon			
No.	District	Population	Area
10.	Kowloon City	359,400	9.97 km ² (3.85 sq mi)
11.	Kwun Tong	579,400	11.05 km ² (4.27 sq mi)
12.	Sham Shui Po	365,600	9.48 km ² (3.66 sq mi)
13.	Wong Tai Sin	421,900	9.36 km ² (3.61 sq mi)
14.	Yau Tsim Mong	285,300	6.85 km ² (2.64 sq mi)
Hong Kong Island			
No.	District	Population	Area
15.	Central and Western	253,100	12.52 km ² (4.83 sq mi)
16.	Eastern	588,700	18.81 km ² (7.26 sq mi)
17.	Southern	275,700	38.95 km ² (15.04 sq mi)
18.	Wan Chai	155,700	10.02 km ² (3.87 sq mi)



Statistics

Hong Kong is subdivided into 18 geographic districts for administrative purposes, each represented by a [district council](#) that advises the [government](#) on local matters such as public facilities, community programmes, cultural activities and environmental improvements. There are a total of 534 district councils seats, 405 of which are elected, while the rest are appointed by the [Chief Executive](#) and 27 *ex officio* chairmen of rural committees. The government's [Home Affairs Department](#) communicates government policies and plans to the public through the district offices.

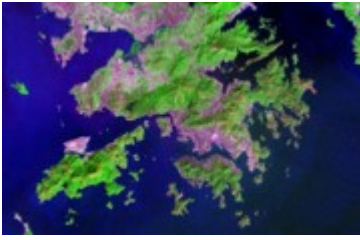
The 18 districts can be split into three areas, often used for statistical purposes. [Hong Kong Island](#) is the original 1842 colony, and contains Hong Kong's [financial core](#) on its northern coast. [Kowloon](#) is to the north across [Victoria Harbour](#), the southern part of which was [ceded in 1860](#). The much larger [New Territories](#) was the final [addition to Hong Kong's territory](#) in 1898.

As a [special administrative region](#), Hong Kong is governed as a [unitary authority](#), and as such there are no formal definitions for its [cities and towns](#). One such example is [Victoria City](#), which was one of the first urban settlements in Hong Kong after it became a colony, and was considered Hong Kong's [capital city](#) during British rule. Its historic boundary, along with that of [Kowloon](#) and [New Kowloon](#), remain stated in law, but has not had any legal or administrative status since 1982.

Geography



The hilly terrain of [Kowloon](#) and [Hong Kong Island](#)



Areas of urban development and vegetation are visible in this false-colour satellite image.

Hong Kong is located on [China's](#) south coast, 60 km (37 mi) east of [Macau](#) on the opposite side of the [Pearl River Delta](#). It is surrounded by the [South China Sea](#) on the east, south, and west, and borders the [city of Shenzhen](#) in [Guangdong Province](#) to the north over the [Sham Chun River](#). The territory's 1,104 km² (426 sq mi) land area consists primarily of [Hong Kong Island](#), [Lantau Island](#), [Kowloon Peninsula](#) and the [New Territories](#) as well as some 260 other islands.

As much of Hong Kong's terrain is hilly to mountainous with steep slopes, less than only 25% of the territory's landmass is developed, and about 40% of the remaining land area is reserved as [country parks](#) and [nature reserves](#). Most of the territory's [urban development](#) exists on Kowloon peninsula, along the northern edge of Hong Kong Island and in scattered settlements throughout the New Territories. The highest elevation in the territory is at [Tai Mo Shan](#), at a height of 958 metres (3,140 ft) above sea level. Hong Kong's long, irregular and curvaceous [coastline](#) also affords the territory with many bays, rivers and [beaches](#).

Despite Hong Kong's reputation of being intensely [urbanised](#), the territory has made much effort to promote a green environment, and recent growing public concern has prompted the severe restriction of further [land reclamation](#) from [Victoria Harbour](#). Awareness of the environment is growing as Hong Kong suffers from increasing [pollution](#) compounded by its geography and tall buildings. Approximately 80% of the [city's smog](#) originates from other parts of the Pearl River Delta.

Situated just south of the [Tropic of Cancer](#), [Hong Kong's climate](#) is [humid subtropical climate](#) ([Köppen climate classification](#) *Cwa*). Summer is hot and humid with occasional showers and [thunderstorms](#), and warm air coming from the southwest. It is also the time when [typhoons](#) are most likely, sometimes resulting in [flooding](#) or [landslides](#). Winter weather usually starts sunny and becomes cloudier towards February, with the occasional [cold front](#) bringing strong, cooling winds from the north. The most pleasant seasons are spring, although changeable, and autumn, which is generally sunny and dry. Hong Kong averages 1,948 hours of sunshine per year, while the highest and lowest ever recorded temperatures at the [Hong Kong Observatory](#) are 36.1 °C (97.0 °F) and 0.0 °C (32.0 °F), respectively.

 **Weather averages for Hong Kong** 

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average high °C (°F)	18.6 (65)	18.6 (65)	21.5 (71)	25.1 (77)	28.4 (83)	30.4 (87)	31.3 (88)	31.1 (88)	30.2 (86)	27.7 (82)	24.0 (75)	20.3 (69)	25 (77)
Average low °C (°F)	14.1 (57)	14.4 (58)	16.9 (62)	20.6 (69)	23.9 (75)	26.1 (79)	26.7 (80)	26.4 (80)	25.6 (78)	23.4 (74)	19.4 (67)	15.7 (60)	21 (70)
Precipitation mm (inches)	24 (0.94)	52 (2.05)	71 (2.8)	188 (7.4)	329 (12.95)	388 (15.28)	374 (14.72)	444 (17.48)	287 (11.3)	151 (5.94)	35 (1.38)	34 (1.34)	2,382 (93.78)

Source: [Hong Kong Observatory](#)[48] 2008

Economy



2 International Finance Centre, the pinnacle of high-rise architecture in Hong Kong

Hong Kong is one of the world's leading financial centres. Its highly capitalist economy has been ranked as the most free economy in the world in the Index of Economic Freedom for 14 consecutive years. It is an important centre for international finance and trade, with the greatest concentration of corporate headquarters in the Asia-Pacific region, and is known as one of the Four Asian Tigers for its high growth rates and rapid industrialisation between the 1960s and 1990s. The Hong Kong Stock Exchange is the sixth largest in the world, with a market capitalisation of US\$2.97 trillion as of October 2007, and the second highest value of initial public offerings, after London. The currency used in Hong Kong is the Hong Kong dollar, which has been pegged to the US dollar since 1983.

The Government of Hong Kong plays a passive role in the financial industry, mostly leaving the direction of the economy to market forces and the private sector. Under the official policy of positive non-interventionism, Hong Kong is often cited as an example of laissez-faire capitalism. Following World War II, Hong Kong industrialised rapidly as a manufacturing centre driven by exports, and then underwent a rapid transition to a service-based economy in the 1980s. Hong Kong matured to become a financial centre in the 1990s, but was greatly affected by the Asian financial crisis in 1998, and again in 2003 by the SARS outbreak. A revival of external and domestic demand has led to a strong recovery, as cost decreases strengthened the competitiveness of Hong Kong exports and a long deflationary period ended.

The territory has little arable land and few natural resources, so it must import most of its food and raw materials. Hong Kong is the world's eleventh largest trading entity, with the total value of imports and exports exceeding its gross domestic product. Much of Hong Kong's exports consist of re-exports, which are products made outside of the territory, especially in mainland China, and distributed via Hong Kong. Even before the 1997 handover, Hong Kong had established extensive trade and investment ties with mainland China, and its autonomous status now enables it to serve as a point of entry for investment flowing into the mainland. At the end of 2007, there were 3.46 million people employed full-time, with the unemployment rate averaging 4.1%, the fourth straight year of decline. Hong Kong's economy is dominated by the service sector, which accounts for over 90% of its GDP, while industry now constitutes just 9%. Inflation was at 2% in 2007, and Hong Kong's largest export markets are mainland China, the United States, and Japan.

Demographics



Hong Kong is one of the [most densely populated areas in the world](#), at 6,200 people per km².



The [Tian Tan Buddha](#) on [Lantau](#) Island

Residents of Hong Kong are sometimes referred to as [Hongkongers](#). The territory's population increased sharply throughout the 1990s, reaching 6.99 million in 2006. Hong Kong has a [fertility rate](#) of 0.95 children per woman, one of the lowest in the world and far below the 2.1 children per woman required to sustain the current population. However, the population in Hong Kong continues to grow due to the influx of immigrants from mainland China, approximating 45,000 per year. [Life expectancy](#) in Hong Kong is 81.6 years as of 2006, the second highest in the world.

About 95% of Hong Kong's population is of [Chinese descent](#), the majority of which is [Cantonese](#) or from ethnic groups such as [Hakka](#) and [Teochew](#). The remaining 5% of the population is composed of non-ethnic Chinese forming a highly visible group despite their smaller numbers. A [South Asian](#) population of [Sindhis](#), [Indians](#), [Pakistanis](#) and [Nepalese](#) are found. [Vietnamese refugees](#) have become permanent residents of Hong Kong. An increasing number of domestic workers also originate from [Indonesia](#). There are also a number of [Europeans](#), [Americans](#), [Australians](#), [Canadians](#), [Japanese](#), and [Koreans](#) working in Hong Kong's commercial and financial sector.

Hong Kong's [de-facto](#) official dialect is [Cantonese](#), a [Chinese](#) dialect originating from [Guangdong](#) province to the north of Hong Kong, and is spoken by 95% of the population as a first language. [English](#) is also an official language, and according to a 1996 by-census is spoken by 3.1% of the population as an everyday language and by 34.9% of the population as a second language.^[59] Signs displaying both Chinese and English are common throughout the territory. Since the [1997 handover](#), an increase in immigrants from [mainland China](#) and greater integration with the mainland economy have brought an increasing amount of [Mandarin](#) speakers to Hong Kong.

[Religion in Hong Kong](#) enjoys a high degree of freedom, guaranteed by the [Basic Law](#). 90% of Hong Kong's population practises a mix of local religions, most prominently [Buddhism](#) (mainly [Chinese Mahayana](#)) and [Taoism](#). A [Christian](#) community of around 600,000 exists, forming about 8% of the total population, and is equally divided between [Catholics](#) and [Protestants](#). There are also [Muslim](#),

[Latter-Day Saint](#), [Jewish](#), [Jehovah's Witness](#), [Hindu](#), [Sikh](#) and [Bahá'í](#) communities. Concerns over a lack of [religious freedom](#) after the 1997 handover have subsided, with [Falun Gong](#) adherents free to practice in Hong Kong, and the [Catholic Church](#) freely appointing its own bishops, unlike [mainland China](#).

Education



A view over the [University of Hong Kong](#)

Hong Kong's [education](#) system roughly follows the [system in England](#), although at the higher education levels, both English and [American](#) systems exist. The [medium of instruction](#) is mainly spoken [Cantonese](#), written [Chinese](#) and [English](#), but [Mandarin](#) language education has been increasing. The [Programme for International Student Assessment](#), has ranked Hong Kong's education system as the second best in the world.

Hong Kong's public [schools](#) are operated by the [Education Bureau](#). The system features a non-compulsory three-year [kindergarten](#), followed by a compulsory six-year [primary education](#), a three-year junior [secondary education](#), a non-compulsory two-year senior secondary education leading to the [Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examinations](#), and a two-year [matriculation](#) course leading to the [Hong Kong Advanced Level Examinations](#). Most comprehensive schools in Hong Kong fall under three categories: the rarer [public schools](#); the more common subsidised schools, including government aids and grant schools; and [private schools](#), often run by [Christian](#) organisations and having admissions based on academic merit rather than on financial resources. Outside this system are the schools under the [Direct Subsidy Scheme](#) and private [international schools](#).

There are [nine public universities](#) in Hong Kong, and a number of [private higher institutions](#), offering various [bachelor's](#), [master's](#), and [doctoral degrees](#), other [higher diplomas](#) and [associate degree](#) courses. The [University of Hong Kong](#), the oldest institution of [tertiary education](#) in Hong Kong, has been ranked as the number one university in [China](#) and the number two in [Asia](#). And, the [Chinese University of Hong Kong](#), the second oldest institution of [tertiary education](#) in Hong Kong, has been ranked as the number two university in [China](#) and the number four in [Asia](#). The [Hong Kong University of Science and Technology](#), since its opening in 1991, has become one of the most prestigious universities in Asia, and admissions is among the most competitive in Hong Kong.

Culture



A statue on the [Avenue of Stars](#), a tribute to Hong Kong cinema

Hong Kong is frequently described as a place where East meets West, reflecting the culture's mix of the territory's Chinese roots with the culture brought to it during its time as a British colony. Although over a decade has passed since the handover, Western cultural practices remain, and coexist seamlessly with the traditional philosophy and practices of Chinese culture. Hong Kong still has a traditional English [morris dancing](#) team, for example, the [Hong Kong Morris](#).

One of the more noticeable contradictions is Hong Kong's balancing of a modernised way of life with traditional [superstitious](#) Chinese practices. Concepts like [Fung shui](#) are taken very seriously, with expensive construction projects often hiring expert consultants, and are often believed to make or break a business. Other objects like [bagua](#) mirrors are still regularly used to deflect evil spirits, and buildings often lack any floor [number that has a 4](#) in it, due to its similarity to the word for "die" in the Chinese language. The fusion of east and west also characterises Hong Kong's cuisine, where [dim sum](#) or [da been lo](#) restaurants can be found next to [fast food](#) joints.

While Hong Kong is a recognised global centre of trade, its most famous export is its entertainment industry, particularly in the martial arts genre which gained a high level of popularity in the late 1960s and 1970s. Several Hollywood performers have originated from Hong Kong cinema, notably [Bruce Lee](#), [Chow Yun-Fat](#), and [Jackie Chan](#). A number of Hong Kong film-makers have also achieved widespread fame in Hollywood, such as [John Woo](#), [Wong Kar-wai](#) and [Tsui Hark](#). Homegrown films such as [Chungking Express](#), [Infernal Affairs](#), [Shaolin Soccer](#), [Rumble in the Bronx](#), and [In the Mood for Love](#) have gained international recognition. Hong Kong is also the world's main centre for [Cantopop](#) music, which draws its influence from other forms of [Chinese music](#), and more international styles including [jazz](#), [rock and roll](#), [rhythm and blues](#), [electronic music](#), [western pop music](#) and others, and has a multinational fanbase.



Hong Kong provides many opportunities for [hiking](#) and [swimming](#).

The Hong Kong government supports cultural institutions such as the [Hong Kong Heritage Museum](#), the [Hong Kong Museum of Art](#), the [Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts](#), and the [Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra](#). Also, the government's [Leisure and Cultural Services Department](#) also subsidises and sponsors international performers brought to Hong Kong. Many international cultural activities are organized by the government, consulates, and privately.

Hong Kong has two [broadcast television](#) stations, [ATV](#) and [TVB](#). [Cable and satellite services](#) are also widespread. The production of Hong Kong's soap dramas, comedy series and [variety shows](#) have reached mass audiences throughout the Chinese-speaking world. Magazine and [newspaper](#) publishers in Hong Kong distribute and print in both Chinese and English, with a focus on [sensationalism](#) and celebrity [gossip](#). [The media](#) is relatively free from government interference compared to [that of mainland China](#), and newspapers are often divided along political lines of support or show scepticism towards the [Chinese government](#) in [Beijing](#). Hong Kong is also one of three [CNN International](#) headquarters.

Hong Kong offers wide recreational and competitive sport opportunities despite its limited land area. Internationally, Hong Kong participates in the [Olympic Games](#), and numerous other [Asian Games](#) events, and hosted the equestrian events for the [2008 Summer Olympics](#) in [Beijing](#). There are major multipurpose venues like [Hong Kong Coliseum](#) and [MacPherson Stadium](#). Hong Kong's steep terrain make it ideal for [hiking](#), with expansive views over the territory, and its rugged coastline provides many beaches for [swimming](#).