

3 Hong Kong

by James Sturz



RISING HIGHER

The Year of the Dragon, which starts January 23, also marks the 15-year anniversary of Britain's handover of Hong Kong to China. The gleaming skyline makes any Western city seem small. Hong Kong's twisting streets are crammed with fusion restaurants and busy food stalls. Colonial apartment buildings stand beside shiny steel-and-glass high-rises. Today, the city sets a new standard for megalopolis living.



Thread Master

Since 1957, Sam's Tailor has been a favorite stop for visiting royalty, prime ministers, and rock stars. The largest order ever received? Ten jackets, 48 suits, and 168 shirts. The flashiest? Coats with national flag-inspired silk linings.

Burlington Arcade, 90-94 Nathan Rd., Kowloon, 852/2367-9423, samstailor.com

What's Your Destiny?

Sik Sik Yuen Wong Tai Sin Temple is large enough to serve Hong Kong's three main religions: Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism. Travelers are welcome to pick up a cylinder of bamboo *kau cim* sticks from the main altar and get their fortunes told.

2 Chuk Yuen Village, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon, 852/2327-8141, www.siksikyuen.org.hk



21st-Century Art

Hong Kong is the world's third-largest art market, after New York and Beijing. The Central District's Hanart T Z Gallery, which represents more than 80 artists primarily from mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, is an excellent introduction to the contemporary scene.

852/2526-9019, hanart.com

The Hong Kong International Art Fair (May 17 through 20) has gained prestige, and features installations by leading artists. Last year's giant ketchup bottle, left, was by Los Angeles' Paul McCarthy.

852/3127-5529, hongkongartfair.com

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: TODD DACQUISTO/INDEX STOCK; GEORGE R. WALDREIN IV; FLYFLOOR/ISTOCKPHOTO



Carpe Diem

Hong Kong is a seafood town, and nowhere is this more evident than in the village Lei Yue Mun (“Carp Gate”). At one of the fish tank stalls along Praya or Hoi Pong Roads, you can buy your choice of live cuttlefish, spider crabs, or sea snails. Any of the restaurants (consider Hoi King Seafood) will prepare your purchase to order.

43A Hoi Pong Rd., Central District, Lei Yue Mun, Kowloon, 852/2346-7878

Hike Kong

Roughly three-quarters of Hong Kong is undeveloped land. The prime hike is the New Territories’ 62-mile MacLehose Trail, which skims gorgeous beaches and climbs to Hong Kong’s highest peak, Tai Mo Shan (3,140 feet). The trail is divided into 10 sections, and campsites are set up along the way. Be on the lookout for wild boar, rhesus monkeys, and barking deer.



“I love Hong Kong’s raw mixture of old and new, clean and dirty, past and present.”

—Francisco Vasconcellos, AFAR.com



Wandering Chef

By Salma Abdelnour

Manhattan-based chef **Anita Lo** (of Annisa) derives menu inspiration from her travels around the world. Her first book, *Cooking Without Borders*, draws on her exquisite French-Asian style. Recently, Lo made a stop in Hong Kong en route to Mongolia and discovered some new favorite restaurants.

Bo Innovation

“The modern Chinese food at this Michelin-star restaurant is as fun as chef Alvin Leung Jr.,” says Lo. (He has the characters for “Demon Chef” tattooed on his shoulders.) “We were treated to 12 courses, including Leung’s signature *xiao long bao* (soup dumplings), fish basted in Iberico ham fat, and a scoop of ice cream shrouded in sandalwood smoke.”

\$\$\$ Shop 13, 2/f, J, 60 Johnston Rd., Wan Chai, 852/2850-8371

Temple Street Night Market

“The night market is a quintessential Asian experience,” says Lo. “Temple Street is one of the more sprawling ones, where you can buy everything from Mao jackets for your dog to stomatopods [mantis shrimp] sautéed in black beans.”

\$, 4 p.m. to midnight, Temple St., Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon

Yung Kee Restaurant

One of Hong Kong’s most famous destinations for goose, Yung Kee started as a food stall and is now a big, bustling restaurant. “The menu always includes the roast goose, which is rich and tender with crackling skin, and 1,000-year-old eggs.”

\$\$, 32-40 Wellington St., Central District, 852/2522-1624

Dance, Shuffle, Dance

After dark, the Central District’s Lan Kwai Fong neighborhood turns into the Chinese version of Miami’s South Beach. Try this club crawl:

1 Start at Pi, on the 28th floor, because no night should begin without mind-blowing views.

852/2868-1162, pi-hk.com

2 Beijing Club’s 12,000-square-foot space, spread over multiple floors, is the place for hip-hop and house music.

852/2526-8298, beijingclub.com.hk

3 Stay up for Home, open until 6 a.m. Tuesday through Thursday and until 9 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

852/2537-1000, home-base.hk

Over-the-Top Digs

There’s no shortage of showy hotels in Hong Kong, but these two take the cake.



At the Peninsula Hong Kong, a glass box built into the wall allows shined shoes to be delivered silently to rooms, and light switches display the outside temperature, recorded by the hotel’s weather station.

Salisbury Rd., Kowloon, 852/2920-2888, hongkong.peninsula.com



Formerly the top floors of the Marine Police Headquarters in Tsim Sha Tsui, the new Hullett House Hotel offers guests 10 fanciful suites. At the Mariners’ Rest pub, celebrate your freedom with a cocktail in an original holding cell.

2A Canton Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, 852/3988-0000, hulletthouse.com