



EXPLORANGES

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Hong Kong Tour 13-day itinerary

Hong Kong and the New Territories is 1,104 square kms consisting of Hong Kong Island, Lantau Island, Kowloon Peninsula and the New Territories as well as some 260 other islands. Despite the common perception that Hong Kong is just a busy metropolis, 70% of its land mass is rural mountains, forests and outlying islands with much of this area designated as country parks and nature reserves. Hong Kong is a hiker's paradise, providing endless opportunities to explore the glorious countryside or take a scenic walk along paths and trails overlooking the city and harbour. Whether it's a challenging climb over mountains or a pleasant stroll through bamboo forests, walking in Hong Kong will take you into another world and provide a living breathing cultural experience like no other.

Included:

- 12 nights accommodation in 4 Star Kowloon Hotel
- 12 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 1 dinner, as indicated in the itinerary
- All transportation, daily tours and entrance fees for itinerary days 2-12
- Experienced Australian tour guide

Not Included:

- Airfares to and from Hong Kong
- Arrival and Departure transfers
- Evening meals (except where indicated in the itinerary)
- Personal expenditure such as drinks, laundry service and souvenirs
- Personal Travel Insurance

Please Note:

Our guide may need to change the itinerary depending on local daily conditions

Exploranges Hong Kong 13-day Itinerary

Day One - Travel to Hong Kong

Check into your Kowloon hotel after your private flight connections to Hong Kong.

Day Two - An Introduction to Hong Kong

Today you will meet your Exploranges Guide and head straight for Hong Kong Island on the famous Star Ferry. You will be introduced to this iconic city from "The Peak" before exploring some of the historic buildings of this ex British colony.

Walking distance: ~ 5 km Grade: easy

Meals included (B,L)



Day Three - The Dragon's Back

Within one hour of Kowloon, on the eastern end of Hong Kong Island, is the Shek O Country Park. It is here that we find the walking trail that Time Magazine has declared the best urban hike in Asia - The Dragon's Back. To get there we will ride on Hong Kong's famous double-deck tramcar, affectionately known as "Ding Dings". At Shek O, the walk undulates along the ridgeline of a thin peninsula jutting into the South China Sea, providing breathtaking views of Hong Kong's craggy southern shoreline, before plunging back down the mountainside to the sleepy Dai Long Wan ("Big Wave Bay").

Walking distance: 9 km Grade: moderate

Meals included (B,L)



Day Four - Cheung Chau

Cheung Chau is a small island made of two granite islands joined by a sand spit. The island's small harbour, is crowded with fishing boats, Chinese junks and sampans. From the pier it is a short walk to one of the Cheung Chau's highest points overlooking most of the island. From here you will explore the rest of the island including the the Pak Tei Temple, dedicated to Cheung Chau's "patron saint", Pak Tei - the Northern King, Tung Wan Beach and ancient rock carvings that are estimated to be over 3000 years old.

Walking distance: ~ 6 km Grade: easy

Meals included (B,L)



Day Five - Around Kowloon

The streets of Kowloon are crammed full of interesting things to see. Like the beautiful Nan Chi Lin Nunnery and Liam Garden, the flower and bird markets, the Tin Hau Temple at Yau Ma Tei, local street food markets and Kowloon Park. We will spend the day taking in the sights and sounds of these busy streets.

Walking distance: ~ 5 km Grade: easy

Meals included (B,L)



Day Six - Lai Chi Wo

In the heart of the Plover Cove County Park, the old Hakka village of Lai Chi Wo, dates back around 400 years when it was one of the most affluent villages in the North-eastern New Territories. Today it is all but abandoned but the houses remain well preserved and the fung shui wood behind the village is said to be one of the oldest surviving fung shui woodlands in Hong Kong. Lai Chi Wo is only accessible by foot and the walk provides both spectacular mountain and coastal views and a unique insight into the lands, homes and lives that the villagers left behind.

Walking distance: ~15 km Grade: moderate

Meals included (B,L)



Day Seven - Free Day

After five full days on the go it is time to rest, relax and recharge. In the evening you will be introduced to the fineries of street dining at the famous Temple Street Market.

Walking distance: optional

Meals included (B,D)



Day Eight - Macau

Portuguese traders began using Macau as a staging port as early as 1516, making it the oldest European settlement in the Far East. The Portuguese left a distinctively Mediterranean footprint with ornate churches, cobblestone streets, tantalizing delicacies and even a distinctive Creole language. A day trip to this historic city provides you with the opportunity to take in the sights of the UNESCO World Heritage Monte Fort, the iconic ruins of St. Paul's Church and the elegant Portuguese and baroque style buildings surrounding the central square, Largo do Senado. Of course, no visit to Macau would be complete without trying an authentic Portuguese egg tart.

Walking distance: ~ 8 km Grade: easy

Meals included (B,L)



Day Nine - Ping Shan Heritage Trail

Once common throughout China, walled villages can still be found in the New Territories of Hong Kong. Wedged between residential and commercial developments, these centuries-old villages are windows into the lives and culture of the early clan settlers. One such clan is the Tang and the Ping Shan Heritage Trail takes you on a journey in a historical part of Hong Kong that has been populated by them since the late Yuan dynasty (1271-1368).

Walking distance: 5 km Grade: easy

Meals included (B,L)



Day Ten - Mai Po Marshes

Hong Kong's topography and sub-tropical climate provide a wide range of habitats for a variety of flora and fauna. In Hong Kong conservation is taken very seriously with 40% of land designated as country parks and special areas. Mai Po Marshes in the North-western corner of the New Territories, have long been known as a haven for migratory birds. It was made a protected area in 1976, and in 1995 1,500 ha of wetlands around Mai Po were formally designated a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. If you love bird watching bring your binoculars.

Walking distance: ~ 12 km Grade: easy

Meals included (B,L)



Day Eleven - Tai O Fishing Village

This walk, along the western coast of Lantau Island, leads from the village of Sha Lo Wan to Tai O - a small coastal fishing village that is more than three centuries old. Tai O retains most of its historical setting such as waterways, stilt houses and fishing boats and it is famous for its fishing village scenery. Here you can take time to wander the narrow streets of the village, mingle with the locals and investigate their many stalls of dried seafood.

Walking distance: ~ 8 km Grade: moderate

Meals included (B,L)



Day Twelve - Sai Kung Geopark

The Sai Kung peninsula is known for its quaint fishing villages and one of the most popular destinations is Sai Kung town, where a busy floating seafood market supplies the al fresco waterfront eateries. From here we will hire a local boat so that we can explore the Sai Kung Geopark - famous for its hexagonal rock columns and the sweeping coastal landforms which includes sea arches, sea caves and sea stacks.

Walking distance: 3 km Grade: easy

Meals included (B,L)



Day Thirteen

All good things must come to an end and today it is time to return home. After a casual breakfast you will say goodbye to your Exploranges Guide before checking out in preparation for your private flight connections. If your flight departs Hong Kong in the evening you can pack early and spend the day doing some last minute shopping or visiting some of the other great Hong Kong attractions.

Walking distance: optional

Meals included (B)



