

Research Institute for Digital Culture and Humanities (RIDCH)
Conference on Digital Humanities 2017 & Conference on Digital Culture 2017
Hong Kong
1 – 3 June 2017

Travelling and Useful Information for Guests

Welcome to the Conference on Digital Humanities 2017 and Conference on Digital Culture 2017 organised by the Research Institute for Digital Culture and Humanities at the Open University of Hong Kong. The following is a guide that includes some travelling tips to help you prepare for a pleasant stay in Hong Kong.

Before Departure

Hong Kong is an exciting and vibrant city where East meets West. Enjoy your stay through taking part in a range of different cultural and leisurely activities that would offer you an unforgettable experience in Hong Kong. If this is your first trip to Hong Kong, you may plan to stay for a few more days so that you can travel to nearby cities, like Macau and Guangzhou, both of which can be reached within one to two hours.

Passports and Visas

Holders of American, EU, Japanese or Korean passports do not need a visa to enter Hong Kong or Macau. However, if you plan to go to Guangzhou or other places in China, you will need to apply for a visa before you depart from your country. It will take a week's time or longer to get a visa to China in Hong Kong. Holders of other passports may need to consult the embassy in your country for information about visa to Hong Kong or China. For further information, please visit the website of Immigration Department of HKSAR: <http://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/>

Time Difference

Local Hong Kong time is Greenwich Mean Time +8 hours.

Weather

Hong Kong's climate is sub-tropical. Summer in Hong Kong is generally hot, humid and sunny, with occasional rainfalls. Temperature varies and the average temperature in June is around 29° Celsius. You are advised to double check the latest weather conditions in Hong Kong prior to your arrival.

Hong Kong Observatory website: <http://www.weather.gov.hk/contente.htm>

Electricity and Voltage

The standard electrical voltage in Hong Kong is 220 volts AC, 50Hz. Most hotel bathrooms also have outlets for 100 volts, but if not, you will need a transformer for any appliance or electrical equipment. The majority of electrical outlets in Hong Kong take a three-pronged UK-style plug. You can buy an inexpensive adaptor for your electrical equipment at most convenience stores.

<http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/plan-your-trip/traveller-info/good-to-know/electricity-and-voltage.jsp#ixzz3tv5oqA9y>.

Arrival in Hong Kong

Hong Kong International Airport

Information on immigration and customs procedures upon arrival at HK International Airport can be found on its website, www.hongkongairport.com/eng/tbu/index.htm and

http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/mustknow/information/mk_info_entr.jhtml.

Airport Express and Cityflyer

Airport Express train schedules and *Cityflyer* bus schedules to the city centre can be easily retrieved at the airport's arrival hall.

More information on how to travel from the airport to the city centre can be found on this website: http://www.hongkongextras.com/to_fromairport.html.

Official Languages

The official languages used in Hong Kong are English and Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin). Most local residents are bilingual. Though some taxi drivers may not be able to speak English, they have a radio interpreting service.

Cash

We recommend you to bring sufficient cash for immediate expenses, but VISA and MasterCard are also widely accepted in Hong Kong. You may also want to check with your bank to see whether your debit cards can be used to retrieve cash from Hong Kong ATM machines.

Foreign currencies can be exchanged at airports, banks, hotels and currency exchange stores. Approximate exchange rates are as follows:

US\$1=HK\$7.75; Euro€1=HK\$8.49; GBP£1=HK\$10.03

Legal tender is the Hong Kong dollar (HK\$). There are 100 cents in a dollar. Coins, issued by the government, are bronze-coloured for 10 cents, 20 cents and 50 cents; silver-coloured for HK\$1, HK\$2, and HK\$5; nickel and bronze for HK\$10.

See more: [HKD exchange rates](#)

Credit Cards

In general, most shops and restaurants accept VISA and MasterCard. However, some shops and restaurants in Hong Kong may not accept payment by credit card for purchases below HK\$200 or there might be an extra service charge. You are advised to check with the shop attendant before payment.

A Smoke-free Hong Kong

OCHK is a smoke-free campus. Smoking is prohibited in most enclosed public places in Hong Kong, including restaurants, karaokes, malls and some bars as well as some outdoor areas with effect from January 1, 2007. No person shall smoke or carry a lit cigarette, cigar or pipe in such areas. Violators will be liable to a maximum fine of HK\$5,000.

Public Hygiene

Hong Kong has strict laws to maintain public hygiene, including fixed penalty fines of HK\$1,500 for littering or spitting. Please help keep Hong Kong clean and beautiful!

Safety

Hong Kong is a safe city day or night. Police officers patrol frequently. However, as in most large cities you should take care of your belongings in public places to guard against pick-pocketing. The emergency number in Hong Kong is 999.

Public Transportation

Octopus Card

The Octopus card is widely used for public transportation and at retail outlets in Hong Kong. It can be easily loaned from MTR customer service centres or bought at 7-Eleven outlets.

<http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/plan-your-trip/traveller-info/transport/getting-around/octopus-card.jsp>

MTR (Mass Transit Railway)

Hong Kong's underground/ subway/ metro system that can rapidly transport you to most of the urban destinations within the city.

Route Map: <http://www.mtr.com.hk/archive/en/services/routemap.pdf>

You can use the interactive [MTR journey planner](#) to find routes and estimate the time needed to reach your destination. It will also show the cost of the trips. A [mobile app](#) version of this planner is available for smartphones.

Bus

There are three different bus companies in Hong Kong - the [Kowloon Bus Company](#), [Citybus](#) and [New World First Bus](#). Most of the buses in Kowloon, where OCHK is

located, are operated by the Kowloon Bus Company (KMB) while there are a number of jointly operated bus lines.

[Cityflyer](#) is the airport bus service operated by Citybus and New World First Bus and [Sightseeing Bus](#) is operated by Citybus and New World First Bus.

Taxi

Taxis are relatively affordable in Hong Kong. The meter of red taxis starts at HK\$24 (US\$3). There are three types of taxi services in Hong Kong - red for Kowloon and Hong Kong Island, blue for Lantau Island and green for the New Territories. You can use the [Taxi fare calculator](#) to estimate the cost of your journey.

Minibus

Green minibuses have fixed bus routes and standardised fares.
Red minibuses have flexible routes and fares.

Participation to the Conference

Conference venue

The address of the Conference venue is as follows:

Jockey Club Campus, the Open University of Hong Kong

81 Chung Hau Street, Ho Man Tin, Kowloon

九龍 何文田 忠孝街 81 號

香港公開大學 賽馬會校園

(紅磡警署隔鄰)

(You may show this Chinese address to a driver if necessary.)

Food

Hong Kong is home to some of the best Cantonese-style cuisines in the world, but the city also offers an outstandingly diverse list of restaurants from other regions of China as well as international cuisines such as Japanese, Thai, Korean, Italian, Spanish, French, Indian, Vietnamese etc. An exhaustive list of restaurants can be found in the websites listed below.

[Discover Hong Kong - Dining](#)

[Time Out Hong Kong - Food & Drink](#)

Sightseeing and Attractions

Hong Kong offers [many wonderful attractions](#) such as Stanley, Victoria Harbour, the Peak, Ocean Park Theme Park, The Big Buddha, Lamma Island, Disneyland, and cable car rides with breathtaking views. [Rickshaw Sightseeing Buses](#) are one of the many ways to see the city. [Guided tours and self-guided walks](#) are also available.

Tourist Apps and e-Guides

- [Discover Hong Kong e-guides](#)
- [Accessible Hong Kong](#) (barrier-free options for travellers with disabilities)

- [MTR Tourist app and Discover Hong Kong apps](#)

Places around OUHK can be found on this Google Map:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=zbk1NxmxDV4.k28_HSMgzq44

Tipping

In general, tipping is at your discretion. While tipping is not mandatory in Hong Kong, a 10% service charge is usually billed in at restaurants.

Useful Websites

- Hong Kong (SAR)- Consular Information
<http://www.protocol.gov.hk/eng/consular/index.html>
- U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong
<http://hongkong.usconsulate.gov>
- Hong Kong Government and General Information
<http://www.gov.hk/en/residents/>
- Hong Kong Fact Sheets
<http://www.gov.hk/en/about/abouthk/factsheets/index.htm>
- Hong Kong Tourism Board
<http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/mustknow/index.jhtml>

Enjoy your stay in Hong Kong!