

HONG KONG

Location

East Asia.

Area

1,098 sq km (424 sq miles).

Population

7.05 million (2009).

Population Density

6,420 per sq km.

Government

Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China since 1997.

Language

Cantonese and English are the official languages, with Cantonese the most widely spoken. Mandarin is growing fast as a second language. English is widely spoken, especially in business circles.

Religion

Buddhist, Confucian and Taoist, with Christian and Muslim minorities, but there are also places of worship for most other religious groups.

Time

GMT + 8.

Electricity

220 volts AC, 50Hz.

Head of Government

Chief Executive Donald Tsang since 2005.

Telephone

Country code: 852. Local public telephone calls can be made either with phonecards or coins. Local calls are free from private phones.

Mobile Telephone

Roaming agreements exist with most international mobile phone companies. Mobile telephones also function all over the underground network, thanks to transmitters installed in the tunnels. It is possible to hire a mobile phone at the international airport.

Internet

Internet facilities are available at libraries and Internet cafes are plentiful. Many cafes and hotels offer Wi-Fi access.

Media

Hong Kong has one of the world's largest film industries and is a major center for broadcasting and publishing. Hong Kong's media are a lot more editorially free than the rest of China. However, there is still reported self-censorship and pressure on editorial policies. Many international and pan-Asian broadcasters are based in the territory. Hong Kong's terrestrial commercial TV networks, TVB and ATV, can also be received in neighboring Guangdong province. Public broadcaster Radio-TV Hong Kong (RTHK) operates several radio and TV networks. There are scores of Chinese-language newspapers and a handful of English-language dailies.

Post

Regular postal services are available. Airmail to Europe takes three to five days.

Post office hours: Mon-Fri 0800-1800; Sat 0800-1400.

*Date to be confirmed.

Note

Religious festivals are timed according to the lunar calendar and variations may occur. The above represent all holidays on which banks, schools, public offices and government departments close. There are also statutory holidays on which all employees receive a day's holiday. For further details of these dates, contact the Hong Kong Tourism Board.

Below are listed Public Holidays for the January 2011-December 2010 period.

1 Jan *New Year's Day.*

Chinese New Year.

4 Apr *Ching Ming Festival.*

10 Apr *Good Friday.*

13 Apr *Easter Monday.*

1 May *Labor Day.*

2 May *Lord Buddha's Birthday.*

28 May *Tuen Ng (Dragon Boat) Festival.*

1 Jul *Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Establishment Day.*

1 Oct *National Day.*

3 Oct *Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival.*

26 Oct *Chung Yeung Festival.*

25 Dec *Christmas Day.*

26 Dec *Boxing Day.*