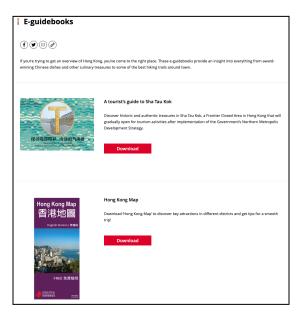




Your Gay Games Guide to Hong Kong

Hong Kong is a unique city that offers a wide range of experiences and things to see, from the hustle and bustle of the city, to the serene beauty of its world-famous country parks. Here is a <u>website</u> that acts like an electronic guidebook on all you need to know about where things are located.

For those who like e-guidebooks, here's a website from the Hong Kong Tourism Board where



you can download maps, guides, and more!

For those with mobility difficulties, this <u>website</u> has accessible tourist attractions with ratings on how easy the location is to get to, how 'barrier-free' the location is and generally the recommendation ratings of the location for mobility-impaired persons. It also provides useful information like if there are accessible toilets provided and photographs of the various spots within the attraction for easier navigation.

Recommendation on Accommodations

MARRIOTT BONVOY

Discover Hong Kong with <u>Marriott Bonvoy</u>, our Platinum sponsor for Gay Games. Find deals <u>here</u>.

Other accommodation options:



Hotel Jen - Sai Wan. Average \$800 to \$900+ HKD (\$103 to \$114 USD) per night. Amenities and services include: fitness center, 24-hour room service, complimentary shuttle service.



Ovolo Central - Lan Kwai Fong. Average \$2,240 to \$2,480 HKD (\$285 to \$315 USD) per night. Amenities and services include: 24-hour gym, 24-hour room service



Low cost options

Mini Hotel Central - Lan Kwai Fong. Average \$462 to \$518 HKD (\$59 to \$66 USD) per night. Amenities and services include: complimentary wifi, daily housekeeping



<u>YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel</u> -Shek Kip Mei. Average \$720 HKD (\$92 USD) per night. Amenities and services include: Wifi access, self-service laundry + self-catering kitchen, cafe

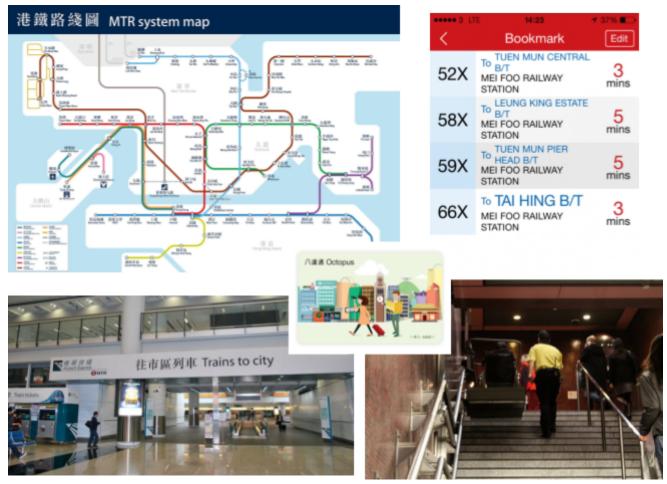
Travel from Airport to Hotel

You can get to the city from the airport quickly using the Airport Express train - which takes you about 24 minutes to reach the city from the international airport. This is a faster and more efficient way to transition from the airport to your desired hotel location. More resources below.

- <u>https://www.hongkongairport.com/en/transport/to-from-airport/airport-express.page</u>
- <u>https://www.mtr.com.hk/en/customer/services/airport_express_index.html</u>

Some more resources and tips for visiting HK: <u>https://www.gov.hk/en/nonresidents/visitinghk/usefulinfo/emergency.htm</u>

Getting around Hong Kong



Note to self: include wheelchair options and other physical disabilities

MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (MTR)

- The main form of public transportation in Hong Kong is the railway network, known as the MTR (Mass Transit Railway).
- The MTR and buses use a similar form of payment to the oyster card in London to pay for train / bus fares. You can get one easily at the Airport Station or in any of the 7 11 stores across HK. What's super great about the octopus card is that you can reload the value not only in the train stations but also in convenience stores like 7 eleven and Circle K found across HK. Keep in mind that the octopus card value can be added by every \$50 HKD, so you can't add \$20 or \$10 HKD to the card.
- The MTR is the most cost effective and reliable form of transportation. You can get pretty much anywhere in HK if you take the MTR. The trains come regularly and consistently, so you don't ever need to worry about delays. As HK is quite small the map of the railway network is relatively straightforward and easy to navigate through.
- Additionally the MTR is very customer friendly, providing assistance for those with physical disabilities. You can request for a ramp to get onto the train, as the gap may not always be in

level with the floor through the staff members. 90 out of the 93 MTR stations have an elevator or ramp access to get out from the MTR to the street, both ways. Just ask for assistance from any of the staff members.

RIDE HAILING APPS

• Ride hailing apps are an alternative way to get a taxi or a private car in Hong Kong. You can use your smartphone to book a ride, track the driver's location, and pay the fare online. Some of the most popular ride hailing apps in Hong Kong are Uber, Fly Taxi, and HKTaxi.

BUSES

• Buses are also quite handy for getting around, there is a convenient app that you can download called the "KMB/LWB" which gives you the bus timings for each bus stop and a map of all the stops along each bus route. All of the buses are wheelchair accessible and have spaces for wheelchair users to use. Remember to use your octopus card!

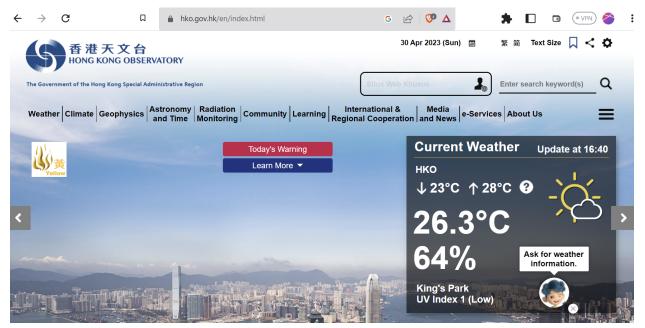
<u>TAXIS</u>

• If you are terrible at navigation, there is always the taxi. No shame in getting into that iconic red taxi! Just make sure you know how much the total fare will be, and an estimate of the fare can be calculated beforehand using Google Maps on your smartphone. Most of the taxi drivers will have basic or limited English skills, so it'll be handy if you could show them the location of where you'd like to go using Google Maps on your smartphone. Oh and did I mention that the taxis are also wheelchair accessible? Handy right?

Additional Resources for Travelers with Mobility Challenges

- More resources for accessible traveling around HK.
- Here is another website that offers more information on traveling options around HK for those with mobility difficulties: <u>https://accessguide.hk/?lang=en&variant</u>
- Those who have speech / hearing impairments, there is a local SMS line you can call for assistance in case you need emergency help: 992. However, you must be registered to use it through this <u>application form</u>. More resources about 992 <u>here</u>.
- Hong Kong uses HKSL, so any users of ASL or others will not be recognized here.

Weather in Hong Kong



Around November time Hong Kong's climate starts to cool and become drier. Make sure you pack a few warm clothes when night falls, and keep in touch with the HKObservatory website to ensure that you know what to wear for your stay during the Gay Games.

Applying for a Hong Kong Visitor Visa

- Here is a website with what you should expect before visiting Hong Kong: <u>https://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/plan/traveller-info/what-you-should-know-before-travelling-to-hong-kong.html</u>
- Another website on immigration and customs processes:
 <u>https://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/plan/traveller-info/immigrations-and-customs.html</u>
- For those who like being prepared, here is a website with more information on climate, basic Cantonese phrases, currency and the charger types used here: <u>https://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/plan/traveller-info/good-to-know.html</u>
- This is a useful website of all the list of consulates and recognised bodies that may help making visa application easier: <u>https://www.protocol.gov.hk/en/posts_bodies.html</u>
- Government website on visa applications <u>https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/forms/hk-visas.html</u>
- Guidebook for visas
- <u>Application to visit HK</u>

Immigration Requirements for Transgender, Queer and Non-binary Folks

Hong Kong has some special immigration requirements for the following: trans and non-binary folks. The immigration laws here unfortunately follow the gender binary when it comes to documentation, which may make it more difficult for those said minority groups. Here are some things you should know:

- Hong Kong is generally considered an LGBTQ+ tolerant destination, but it does not have any laws that protect sexual orientation or gender identity from discrimination in areas such as employment, education, housing, or health care. Be aware of the potential for harassment or prejudice from some locals, especially in more conservative or rural areas.
- Current visa application documents do not have optional boxes for different genders. There is only "Male" and "Female". (Perhaps it would be best to go with which one you currently identify with?).
- Hong Kong currently has anti-discriminatory laws for gender, race and disability, however it is not the same for sexual orientation. Hong Kong does not have any laws that recognize same-sex married couples.
- Hong Kong allows people to change their legal gender without surgery, but only for the purpose of marriage. The legal gender is not altered on other official documents such as identity cards or passports. If your passport does not match your current gender presentation, you may face difficulties or delays at immigration or security checkpoints. It is advisable to carry a letter from your doctor or therapist explaining your gender identity and transition status, as well as any relevant medical documents. GGHK has worked closely with the Hong Kong Immigration Department to ensure their border agents are aware.

Travel Tips for Neurodivergent People

- Hong Kong is a busy and crowded city that can be overwhelming for people who are sensitive to noise, light, or smells. You may want to bring earplugs, headphones, sunglasses, or masks to help you cope with the sensory stimulation. You can also look for quieter and greener places to relax, such as parks, gardens, or islands.
- Hong Kong has a well-developed public transportation system that is convenient and affordable. You can use the MTR subway, buses, trams, ferries, taxis, or ride-hailing apps to get around the city. However, be mindful of the cultural norms and expectations regarding social interaction and personal space in public spaces. For example, some people may stare or comment if you behave differently from the norm. Try to ignore them or avoid confrontation if possible. If you feel unsafe or threatened, seek help from the authorities or other bystanders.
- Hong Kong's airport is one of the most accessible and friendly in Asia for neurodivergent travelers. It has special services and facilities such as private handicapped bathrooms, audio sound systems, Braille signage, electric cart services, and wheelchair lifts. You can also request assistance from the airline staff or the airport staff to help you with check-in, security, boarding, or baggage claim.
- Hong Kong has a lot of attractions and activities that cater to different interests and abilities. You can enjoy the city's skyline, culture, history, nature, shopping, dining, and nightlife. You can also find places that are suitable for neurodivergent travelers such as museums, libraries, art galleries,

temples, or theme parks. You can plan your itinerary according to your own pace and style, and make adjustments as needed. You can also use online resources such as blogs, podcasts, or videos to learn more about the destination and prepare yourself for the trip.