

Hong Kong Island: Wan Chai & the Northeast

ADMIRALTY | WAN CHAI | CAUSEWAY BAY | HAPPY VALLEY | ISLAND EAST

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Combing the rows of **narrow streets** (p110) sandwiched between Queen's Rd East and Johnston Rd for old houses, Taoist temples, traditional shops, open-air bazaars and screaming wet markets.

2 Feeling your adrenalin soar at the **Happy Valley Racecourse** (p111) on a Wednesday night, beer in hand.

3 Experiencing sublime taste in Admiralty: aesthetic at the **Asia Society Hong Kong Centre** (p107) and culinary at **AMMO** (p114).

4 Shopping for Hong Kong-style, retro-with-a-twist souvenirs at **G.O.D.** (p124) in Causeway Bay.

5 Having a night of debauchery on **Lockhart Road** (p121) in Wan Chai.



For more detail of this area, see Map p370, Map p372 and Map p374 ➔

Explore Wan Chai & the Northeast

Stroll through the Pacific Place mall connected to Admiralty MRT station and pay a leisurely two-and-a-half hour visit to Hong Kong Park and the Asia Society Hong Kong Centre. Head downhill and over to Queen's Rd East nearby. Spend two hours exploring the 'old' Wan Chai area. Have some ethnic food; choices are plenty. Continue your journey to 'new' Wan Chai, closer to the harbour, to the Wan Chai Computer Centre or further north to the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. Tram it to Causeway Bay, arriving after the lunch hour to avoid the crowds. Spend some time shopping or head east to Victoria Park to people-watch under a tree. Enjoy happy-hour drinks here or hop on an eastbound 'ding ding' and play it by ear.

Local Life

- ➔ **Lil' Jakarta** Indonesian maids gather at Victoria Park (p109) on Sundays to eat, sing and pray.
- ➔ **Toy shops** Gen-Xers bring their kids to the Tai Yuen St toy shops (p125) to relive childhood innocence, and buy lanterns during the Mid-Autumn Festival.
- ➔ **Hipsterville** The atmospheric area around Star, Moon and St Francis Sts (p121) is where hipsters and tastemakers hang out.
- ➔ **Fujian Town** North Point is the stronghold of Hong Kong's Fujianese community (p111).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Bus** Buses operate from Admiralty bus station below Queensway Plaza. To get to Causeway Bay and Happy Valley from Admiralty and Central, buses 5, 5B and 26 stop along Yee Wo St. Green Minibus 40 from Stanley calls along Tang Lung St and Yee Woo St.
- ➔ **MTR** Admiralty station is on the Island and Tsuen Wan lines. Wan Chai station is on the Island line. Get to Causeway Bay and Happy Valley from the Causeway Bay and Tin Hau stations on the Central line. Take the Island line from Causeway Bay to get to Island East.
- ➔ **Tram** Trams run east along Queensway, Johnston Rd and Hennessy Rd to Causeway Bay, and west to Central and Sheung Wan. To get to Causeway Bay and Happy Valley trams run along Hennessy Rd and Yee Wo St to Central and Shau Kei Wan; along Percival St to Happy Valley, and along Wong Nai Chung Rd to Causeway Bay, Central, Kennedy Town and Shau Kei Wan. For Island East, trams run all the way to Chai Wan.
- ➔ **Star Ferry** Wan Chai ferry pier to Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Viewing the Island's east districts from a moving tram imparts a charming cinematic quality to your impressions, as these primarily residential areas can underwhelm on foot. Add speed to the uniformity of housing blocks and you get rhythm and pattern. The bonus is that you can hop off when something tickles your fancy. The district is served by some 30 stops on the eastbound tramline.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Yin Yang (p114)
- ➔ Tung Po Seafood Restaurant (p120)
- ➔ Cepage (p114)
- ➔ Pure Veggie House (p113)
- ➔ AMMO (p114)

For reviews, see p113 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Executive Bar (p122)
- ➔ Pawn (p122)
- ➔ Classifieds Mozzarella Bar (p121)

For reviews, see p121 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ G.O.D. (p124)
- ➔ Daydream Nation (p123)
- ➔ Wan Chai Computer Centre (p124)

For reviews, see p123 ➔