



Day Trips from Hong Kong

Shēnzhèn p249

For most day visitors, Shēnzhèn is mostly about bargain shopping (followed by a cheap massage or good dim sum). Although the bargains are still Shēnzhèn's main draws, many exciting cultural spaces have emerged that are subverting the city's reputation for vacuous consumerism. Shēnzhèn hosts the Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture and China's major music festivals all have SZ editions. You can buy a five-day, Shēnzhèn-only visa at the Lo Wu border crossing (Americans, and sometimes British, excluded).

Guǎngzhōu p254

Known to many as Canton, Guǎngzhōu, the capital of Guǎngdōng province, is a sprawling city with 12 million people that may seem chaotic to the uninitiated. But with patience, you'll discover graceful Chinese gardens, magnificent temples, throbbing indie dives, tea houses rich with culture, and sites of uprisings that changed the history of China. And fittingly enough, in Canton, you'll find Cantonese cuisine at its best.

Shēnzhèn

Explore

On arriving at Shēnzhèn train station, take bus 101 or 204 for an hour's ride west to Window of the World in Nánshān District. Spend about two hours there, before taking the metro to the next two stops east, respectively Huáqiáochéng station and Qiáochéngdōng station, to visit art galleries and the OCT-LOFT Art Terminal. Have a snack at one of the cafes at OCT-LOFT, before heading east to Chēngōngmiào station to shop for knock-off designer furniture and a proper lunch. Then head east to the Shēnzhèn Museum near Shìmín Zhōngxīn station to get some context for your impressions. Spend an hour or so there. If you're up for more shopping, check out Luóhú Commercial Centre, and enjoy dinner in the Luóhú District, before catching the train back to Hong Kong.

The Best...

- ➔ **Sight** OCT-LOFT (p249)
- ➔ **Place to eat** Phoenix House (p252)
- ➔ **Place to shop** Century Furnishings Central Mall (p253)

Top Tip

At Dōngmén Market, you can have clothes, drapes or bedcovers custom-made for same-day pick-up. Place your order in the morning, do your sightseeing and pick up your goods before dinner. With clothes, stick to straightforward designs, and try to provide an image of what you want.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Train** MTR's Lo Wu-bound or Lok Ma Chau-bound trains (1st/2nd class HK\$72/36 if you start from Hung Hom) are the most convenient transport to Shēnzhèn from Hong Kong. The first train to Lo Wu/Lok Ma Chau leaves Hung Hom station at 5.30/5.35am, the last at 11.07/9.35pm, and the trip takes about 44/49 minutes. Both connect with the metro in Shēnzhèn once across the border.

➔ **Bus** Frequent buses run by **China Travel Tours Transportation Services** (CTS; ☎2764 9803; <http://ctsbus.hkcts.com>) head to the Huánggāng border crossing (near Lok Ma Chau) and Shēnzhèn Bay (深圳湾)

at Shékǒu from multiple departure points including Metropark Hotel in Causeway Bay, and CTS branches in Wan Chai, Sheung Wan, Mong Kok and Prince Edward. Fares range from HK\$40 to HK\$50 (one way). Shēnzhèn has a cheap and efficient network of buses and minibuses (tickets ¥2 to ¥7).

➔ **Boat** The **Chu Kong Passenger Transportation Company** (☎2858 3876; www.cksp.com.hk) has six jet-cat departures (economy/1st class HK\$140/180, one hour) daily from the Hong Kong-Macau Ferry Terminal to Shékǒu port from 10am to 8.30pm. Fourteen ferries depart from Hong Kong airport (HK\$220, 30 minutes one way) between 9am and 9.45pm.

Getting Around

➔ **Metro** Shēnzhèn has five metro lines (www.szmc.net). Fares start from ¥2 for the first 4km. Line 1 stretches from the Luóhú border crossing to the airport, passing through the Window of the World theme park. Line 4 starts at Fútián Check Point station, where passengers can interchange from Lok Ma Chau station across the border in Hong Kong. You can buy a ¥20 pass at any metro station and make unlimited trips within a 24-hour period.

➔ **Taxi** In Shēnzhèn, the first 2km cost ¥10, with each additional kilometre ¥2.40.

Need to Know

- ➔ **Area code** ☎86 (0)755
- ➔ **Tourist office** (Shēnzhèn Tourist Consultation Centre, 深圳市旅游局旅游咨询中心; ☎8232 3045; Ground fl, Shēnzhèn train station, east exit; ☉9am-6pm) Free and reasonably detailed maps available on request. There's another branch at Fútián Port that keeps the same hours.
- ➔ **Visa** See p314 for details.



SIGHTS

OCT-LOFT

(华侨城创意文化园; Huáqiáochéng Chuàngyì Wénhuàyuán; ☎2691 1976; Enping Jie, Huáqiáochéng, Nánshān District; ☉10am-5.30pm; M Qiáochéngdōng, exit A) The sprawling OCT-LOFT complex, converted from austere communist-era factories, is one of the best places to see contemporary art in Shēnzhèn, and makes for a wonderful browse-as-you-

ARTS CENTRE