

# Hong Kong Island: Central

## Neighbourhood Top Five

**1 Star Ferry** (p69) Cruising on iconic mid-century green-and-white ferries that cross Victoria Harbour all day and into the night.

**2 Skyscrapers** (p70) Getting personal with skyscrapers you saw in *The Dark Knight* by checking out buildings like the Bank of China Tower.

**3 Cantonese Cuisine** (p74) Enjoying top-notch Cantonese food at Lung King Heen, the world's first Chinese restaurant to snag three Michelin stars.

**4 IFC Mall** (p77) Shopping with the wealthy (or watching the wealthy shop) at Central's premier mall, a sleek multistorey shopaholic's

paradise at the base of the IFC towers.

**5 Zoological & Botanical Gardens** (p70) Taking your morning constitutional and paying the animals a visit at this leafy zoo and public park on the slope of Victoria Peak.



For more detail of this area see Map p298 ➔

## Explore: Central

Whatever time of the day you plan on visiting Hong Kong's CBD, it's worth remembering that shops here close relatively early (6pm or 7pm), and that by mid-evening the dust has settled. It's also advisable to have lunch outside the noon-to-2pm insanity when hordes of hungry suits descend on every table in sight.

Travelling on the MTR, take the Statue Sq exit and spend an hour looking around the Former Legislative Council Building and other memorials to Hong Kong's past. In the next couple of hours, check out the architecture in the vicinity – glass-and-steel modernity like the HSBC Building and colonial-era survivors like the Gothic St John's Cathedral.

Head over to the Zoological and Botanical Gardens for some hobnobbing with the rhesus monkeys. Recharged after an hour, make a beeline for the harbour for some retail therapy at the IFC Mall. Take as long as you like, then hop on the Star Ferry to Kowloon.

## Local Life

➔ **Lil' Manila** Every Sunday, Filipina domestic helpers take over Statue Square (p71) and the nearby pavements to eat, sing, chat and read the Bible.

➔ **Hang-outs** On weekdays at 3pm, well-coiffed ladies of leisure congregate at Sevva (p76) for Marie Antoinette's Crave (it's a cake).

➔ **Shopping** World-Wide Plaza (p72) is handy for stocking up on affordable toiletries and snacks.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **MTR** Central station on the Island and Tsuen Wan lines.

➔ **Airport Express** Hong Kong station below IFC Mall connects (by underground walkway) with Central MTR station on one side and Central Piers on the other.

➔ **Star Ferry** Ferries from Tsim Sha Tsui in Kowloon arrive at Central Pier 7.

➔ **Bus** Buses start and end their journeys at Central Bus Terminus below Exchange Sq.

➔ **Tram** Runs east and west along Des Voeux Rd Central.

➔ **Outlying Islands Ferry** Ferries to Discovery Bay, Lamma, Cheung Chau, Lantau and Peng Chau run from Central Piers 3 to 6.

➔ **Central Escalator** Runs from the former Central Market to the Mid-Levels.

➔ **Peak Tram** Runs from the lower terminus (33 Garden Rd) to the Peak.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

To enjoy Central's top-notch French and Italian restaurants without breaking the bank, go for the midday specials. Most restaurants offer these for the convenience of business-lunch eaters and frugal foodies. Some may even serve breakfast and/or afternoon tea, weekend lunch buffets or sell gourmet sandwiches at a take-away station. Remember to book in advance if you're dining in for lunch.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Lung King Heen (p74)
- ➔ Otto e Mezzo Bombana (p75)
- ➔ Amber (p75)
- ➔ Tasty Congee & Noodle Wonton Shop (p72)

For reviews, see p72 ➔

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Sevva (p76)
- ➔ MO Bar (p75)
- ➔ Pier 7 (p76)

For reviews, see p75 ➔

## Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Shanghai Tang (p77)
- ➔ Armoury (p77)
- ➔ Lane Crawford (p77)
- ➔ Picture This (p77)

For reviews, see p77 ➔