

Hong Kong Island: Wan Chai & the Northeast

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

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Blue House** (p102)
Combing the streets around Queen's Rd East and Johnston Rd for heritage architecture like the Viva Blue House cluster, where you'll also find temples, hipster bars, wet markets and open-air bazaars.
- 2 Happy Valley Racecourse** (p105) Feeling your adrenaline soar at an urban racecourse on a Wednesday night, beer in hand.
- 3 Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware** (p101)
Experiencing culture, history and gastronomy at the museum and its resident restaurant, Lock Cha Tea Shop.
- 4 Fashion Walk** (p118)
Trawling through the streets and malls for fashion among the hordes of teenyboppers in Causeway Bay.
- 5 Street Music Concert Series** (p116) Catching one of these professional-quality street concerts outside the Hong Kong Arts Centre and other venues in Wan Chai.



For more detail of this area see Map p306, p308 and p310 

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

- ➔ Choi's Kitchen (p111)
- ➔ Sun Kwai Heung (p112)
- ➔ Lock Cha Tea Shop (p107)
- ➔ Atum Desserant (p110)
- ➔ Pure Veggie House (p108)

For reviews, see p107 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Tai Lung Fung (p113)
- ➔ Elephant Grounds (p115)
- ➔ MyHouse (p113)
- ➔ Stone Nullah Tavern (p113)

For reviews, see p113 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ GOD (p117)
- ➔ Cuffs (p118)
- ➔ Basheer (p118)
- ➔ Kapok (p116)
- ➔ Eslite (p117)

For reviews, see p116 ➔


Explore: Wan Chai & the Northeast

Stroll through the Pacific Place mall connected to Admiralty MTR station and pay a leisurely two-and-a-half hour visit to Hong Kong Park and Asia Society Hong Kong Centre. Head over to Queen's Rd East nearby. Spend two hours exploring the 'old' Wan Chai area. Continue your journey to 'new' Wan Chai (closer to the harbour), where you can visit the Wan Chai Computer Centre or stroll further north to the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. Dine on nouveau Hong Kong food in Wan Chai or in Causeway Bay, a tram ride away (arrive after the lunch crowds). Shop for books and fashion, sit under a tree in Victoria Park, or head to nearby Tai Hang to people-watch at a cafe. Enjoy happy-hour drinks in up-and-coming 'Caroline Haven' or hop on an eastbound 'ding ding' and play it by ear.

Local Life

- ➔ **Lil' Jakarta** Indonesian maids gather at Victoria Park (p104) on Sundays to eat, sing and pray.
- ➔ **Toy shops** Gen-Xers bring their kids to the Tai Yuen St toy shops (p116) to relive childhood innocence, and buy lanterns during the Mid-Autumn Festival.
- ➔ **Next coolest thing** The area around Caroline Hill Rd and Haven St (aka 'Caroline Haven') is where hipsters, collectors and garage mechanics hang out.
- ➔ **Neighbourly charm** The leafy streets of Tai Hang are full of hole-in-the-wall galleries and intimate corner cafes.
- ➔ **Fujian Town** North Point is the stronghold of Hong Kong's Fujianese community.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Tram** To Causeway Bay and Happy Valley, catch Central-bound or Shau Kei Wan-bound trams along Hennessy Rd and Yee Wo St; catch trams along Percival St to Happy Valley, and along Wong Nai Chung Rd to Causeway Bay, Central, Kennedy Town and Shau Kei Wan. Chai Wan-bound trams cover Island East.
- ➔ **Bus** From Admiralty and Central to Causeway Bay and Happy Valley, buses 5, 5B and 26 stop along Yee Wo St. Green minibus 40 from Stanley stops along Tang Lung St and Yee Wo St.
- ➔ **MTR** Admiralty station: Island and Tsuen Wan lines. Wan Chai station: Island line. Happy Valley and Tai Hang are reachable from Causeway Bay and Tin Hau stations (Central line).
- ➔ **Star Ferry Wan Chai ferry pier** (灣仔碼頭; Map p308;  Wan Chai, exit C) to Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.