

TRANSPORT

Amazingly well connected, Hong Kong's international sea, air, road and rail links make getting there and away easy and largely stress free. Equally, its excellent infrastructure makes it a breeze to get around within the Special Administrative Region (SAR), whether by bus, taxi, ferry, tram or train. Flights, tours and rail tickets can be booked online at www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services.

AIR

Hong Kong's importance as an international hub for China and much of East and South-east Asia ensures excellent international air connections, and competition keeps the fares relatively low to most places – except China.

A proliferation of budget airlines in recent years has only increased competition and downward pressure on many shorter-haul fares in particular. Specific information on air travel to and from Macau and China can be found on [p350](#) and [p285](#), respectively.

Tickets are normally issued the day after booking, but you can usually pick up really cheap tickets (actually group fares) at the airport from the 'tour leader' just before the flight. Check these tickets carefully as there may be errors (eg the return portion of the ticket being valid for only 60 days from when you paid for a ticket valid for six months).

You can generally get a good idea of what fares are available at the moment by looking in the classified section of the *South China Morning Post*. Otherwise, check out any of the following websites:

Bargain Holidays (www.bargainholidays.com)

ebookers (www.ebookers.com)

Last Minute (www.lastminute.com)

Skyscanner (www.skyscanner.net)

Travelocity (www.travelocity.com)

You'll find travel agencies everywhere in Hong Kong, but the following are among the most reliable and offer the best deals on air tickets:

Concorde Travel (Map p78; ☎ 2526 3391; www.concorde-travel.com; 1st fl, Galuxe Bldg, 8-10 On Lan St, Central; ☎ 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) This is a long-established and highly dependable agency owned and operated by expats.

THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

Natori Travel (Map p78; ☎ 2810 1681; fax 2810 8190; www.natoritvl.com; Room 2207, Melbourne Plaza, 33 Queen's Rd Central; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat) Readers have long used and recommended this place.

Phoenix Services Agency (Map p106; ☎ 2722 7378; Room 1404, 14th fl, Austin Tower, 22-26 Austin Ave, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat) Phoenix is one of the best places in Hong Kong to buy air tickets, get China visas and seek travel advice. It is also the Hong Kong agent for the student and discount-travel company STA Travel.

Traveller Services (Map p104; ☎ 2375 2222; www.taketraveller.com; 1813 Miramar Tower, 132 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat) Very reliable for good-value air tickets.

Airlines

More than 70 international airlines operate between Hong Kong International Airport and some 130 destinations around the world. You can check flight schedules and real-time flight information for both Macau and Hong Kong airports at www.hktimeable.com.

Regional short-haul operators flying to Hong Kong include Singapore-based **Jetstar** (www.jetstar.com), which flies to Jakarta and Singapore.

Major airlines serving Hong Kong:

Air New Zealand (NZ; Map p67; ☎ 2862 8988; www.airnewzealand.com.hk; Suite 1701, 17th fl, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Pl, Central)

British Airways (BA; Map p67; ☎ 3071 5083; www.britishairways.com; 24th fl, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Pl, Central)

China Eastern (MU; Map p67; ☎ 2861 1898; www.ce-air.com; Unit B, 31st fl, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Admiralty)

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor transport generates carbon dioxide (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow travellers to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.

China Southern Airlines (CZ; [Map p67](#); ☎ 2929 5033; www.cs-air.com; Unit B1, 9th fl, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Admiralty)

Dragonair (KA; [Map p104](#); ☎ 3193 3888; www.dragonair.com/hk; Suite 1808, 18th fl, Tower 6, The Gateway, Harbour City, 9 Canton Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui)

Hong Kong Express (UO; [Map p74](#); ☎ 3923 7399; www.hongkongexpress.com; 28th fl, Bank of East Asia Harbour View Centre, 56 Gloucester Rd, Wan Chai)

Northwest Airlines (NW; ☎ 2810 4288; www.nwa.com/hk)

Qantas Airways (QF; [Map p67](#); ☎ 2822 9000; www.qantas.com.au; 24th fl, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Pl, Central)

Singapore Airlines (SQ; [Map p72](#); ☎ 2520 2233; www.singaporeair.com.hk; 17th fl, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Admiralty)

Virgin Atlantic Airways (VS; [Map p67](#); ☎ 2532 6060; 8th fl, Alexandra House, 16-20 Chater Rd, Central)

Airport

Hong Kong International Airport ([Map p140](#); ☎ 2181 0000; www.hkairport.com), which was the world's largest civil engineering project when it opened in mid-1998, is on Chek Lap Kok, a largely man-made island off the northern coast of Lantau. It is connected to the mainland by several spans. Among them is the 2.2km-long Tsing Ma Bridge, which is one of the world's largest suspension bridges and is capable of supporting both road and rail transport, including

the 34km-long Airport Express high-speed train from Hong Kong Island to Chek Lap Kok via Kowloon.

The futuristic passenger terminal, designed by British architect Sir Norman Foster, consists of eight levels, with check-in on level seven, departures on level six and arrivals on level five. Outlets (including bank branches, moneychangers and five ATMs) total 150, and there are more than 30 cafes, restaurants and bars, and more than 280 check-in counters.

The **Hong Kong Tourism Board** (HKTB; ☎ 2508 1234; www.discoverhongkong.com) maintains information centres on level five. On the same level you'll also find branches of **China Travel Service** (CTS; ☎ 2261 2472, 2261 2062; www.ctshk.com; ☎ 8.45am-10pm), which can issue China visas, and counters run by the **Hong Kong Hotels Association** (HKHA; ☎ 2383 8380, 2769 8822; www.hkha.org; ☎ 6am-midnight); for details see [Reservations, p234](#). Be advised that the HKHA deals with midrange and top-end hotels only and does not handle hostels, guesthouses or other budget accommodation.

If you are booked on a scheduled (but *not* a charter) flight and are taking the Airport Express to the airport, most airlines allow you to check in your bags and receive your boarding pass a day ahead of your flight at the in-town check-in counters at the Hong Kong Island or Kowloon Airport Express stations between 5.30am and 12.30am. You are required, however, to check yourself in at least 90 minutes before your flight. Some air-