



Hotels & Hostels

Want more sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travellers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to [lonelyplanet.com/hotels](https://www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels) and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

SLEEPING

top picks

- Courtyard by Marriott Hong Kong (p237)
- The Four Seasons (p240)
- Golden Island Guesthouse (p247)
- Hotel Jen (p238)
- Mandarin Oriental (p240)
- Peninsula Hong Kong (p241)
- Putman (p239)
- Salisbury (p244)
- W Hong Kong (p245)

SLEEPING

In a city where a foot of land, as the saying goes, is worth an inch of gold, money makes all the difference when you're looking for a bed for the night. If you have cash, you'll be spoiled for choice, so wide is the range of luxurious places. The middle range of the price spectrum tends to be crowded with adequate but less inspiring options, while further down the price scale the pickings get thinner – the defining feature here is hostels and guesthouses with broom cupboard-sized rooms.

But things have been improving of late. Since the easing of cross-border travel restrictions by China in 2003, visitors from the mainland have overtaken travellers from Japan and the West to become the single largest market for Hong Kong. As many of these northern visitors come mainly to shop, they seek out affordable accommodations in central locations. The global recession also means that hotels and guesthouses have to work harder to attract customers. Many budget addresses have improved their standards, and many midrange places and even top-end hotels are offering big discounts (especially during the shoulder and low seasons) on their posted rates, which are the ones listed in this chapter. But whatever your budget, accommodation costs are generally higher in Hong Kong than most other Asian cities, but cheaper than those in Europe and the US.

The two high seasons of Hong Kong's hotels have traditionally been from March to April and October to November, though things can be tight around Chinese New Year (late January or February) as well. When big trade fairs come to town in January, April and October, accommodation in Wan Chai (and areas with easy access to Wan Chai, such as Tsim Sha Tsui) is very tight and prices rocket. Outside these periods, rates can drop – sometimes substantially.

Almost all midrange to top-end hotels, and most guesthouses, offer broadband and/or wi-fi access (often free at guesthouses and usually starting at \$40 per hour in the hotels), as well as computers for guests' use. The only places reviewed in this chapter that have no internet access whatsoever are Causeway Bay Guest House (p240), Man Lai Wah Hotel (p249) and Mui Wo Inn (p250). Due to the economic downturn, the majority of the hotels reviewed offer long-stay discounts and/or packages, some available only with advanced booking, so remember to inquire when you reserve a room.

The accommodation options in this guide are listed by price and by area.

ACCOMMODATION STYLES

Hotels

Hong Kong's luxury hotels are locked in an arms race for the dollars of affluent travellers. Their weapons are superstar restaurants, a choice of airport transit by Rolls Royce Phantom or helicopter, lavish spa complexes and infinity pools. Then, of course, there's the silky-smooth service and attention to your most fooling whims.

It doesn't come cheaply though. Prices for top-of-the-range hotels start from about \$2600 per room. A few such hotels – the Four Seasons, Peninsula and Mandarin Oriental, for example – offer comfort, amenities and service that compete with or surpass that of the world's finest five-star hotels.

Top-end hotels, starting at a minimum of \$1600, are in spiffy locations; they also have smart, comfortable rooms with a good variety of room-service options. Amenities include

business facilities, bars and restaurants, and fluent English-speaking staff.

While midrange hotels used to be generic business and/or leisure establishments with little to distinguish one from another, many new places have sprung up that are uniquely cool to look at and easy on the pocket, with room rates hovering in the high hundreds and dipping to budget range in the low season. Rooms at these places tend to be small and come with limited cable TV, wireless broadband connection and room service.

The majority of Hong Kong's budget hotels are in Kowloon, with many on or near Nathan Rd. Though most budget hotel rooms are very small, the places listed here are clean and cheerily shabby or neat and austere, rather than grim and grimy. All have air-con and most have TVs, phones and private bathrooms. Anything under \$600 should be considered budget.

Hotels in Hong Kong add 10% service and 3% government tax to your bill, something