

Your trip to China

Please review the following information and procedures before getting on the plane headed to Hong Kong or China.

Staying in Hong Kong – From the airport to your hotel

After getting off the plane follow the signs to immigration. Get in the visitor line with your immigration card and possibly a health declaration form. You will be stamped into Hong Kong and they will put your embarkation card back into your passport. Do not lose it since it will be required when you leave Hong Kong. Pass through the glass doors and you will pick up your bags at the designated carousel. There are many electronic signs stating which flight is on which carousel. Pick up your bags and proceed to the exit hall. After you pass through the glass doors you will walk by a money exchange booth. This is good place to exchange money. From here you can go by high-speed train to Kowloon or Hong Kong, or by taxi into the city. Get off the train at either Hong Kong or Kowloon depending on where your hotel is. The train is easy, convenient and inexpensive compared to taking a taxi into the city. After getting off the train there will be taxi lines directly in front of you. Just tell the taxi driver where you want to go.

Mobile Phones

Check with your domestic provider to see what options are available on your existing phone plan. If you wish to get a phone in Hong Kong or China they are often available to rent from major hotels. You can purchase a mobile phone fairly inexpensively in Hong Kong. Temporary phone numbers and recharge cards can be purchased on almost all street corner phone shops.

Weather

During the summer all of China is hot and humid. Loose fitting clothing and natural fibers are best. During the winter the temperature varies from Northern China down to Hong Kong

North – heavy snow and very cold

Central – Cold with little snow

Southern – mild to damp and cold

Even though Hong Kong is located in the tropics it can be very damp during December through February and people will be seen wearing heavy jackets.

Please check the internet for weather conditions before planning your trip.

Exchanging money

Money can be exchange at the airport and hotels in Hong Kong. There are often money exchange counters at the border between China and Hong Kong. The money exchange counters in the tourist areas of Hong Kong (mostly in the Kowloon area) are also good places. A little know fact is that you can often negotiate the rate of exchange with the money exchange clerks in the storefront shops. Just tell the person you will exchange 100 USD or more but want a better rate. Also be aware of the fixed service fees they charge. A good rate with a high fee can be a bad deal if you do many small transactions.

DO NOT EXCHANGE MONEY WITH PEOPLE HANGING OUT IN FRONT OF BANKS IN CHINA OFFERING BETTER RATES. This is illegal. The bills are often counterfeit.

ATMs

ATMs in Hong Kong will accept just about any overseas ATM card. The most common systems accepted are; Cirrus, Plus, Maestro, Visa, and Mastercard. Check with your home bank before coming over.

Visas

Please bring your passport, which must be valid for at least 6 months. Single and Double entry visas to China can be obtained in Hong Kong. They can be obtained on the same day by paying the express fee. Six (6) month multiple entry visas can be obtained if your passport shows that you have traveled to China at least once.

Taxis in Hong Kong

It is not necessary to pay a tip to the taxi driver, however it is not unusual or unacceptable for them to round up to an even dollar amount. There are extra fees for tunnels and baggage stored in the trunk. So if you see the driver adding something at the end of the trip it is the additional fee if any. Taxi drivers are honest in Hong Kong. They should also always use the meter.

Taxis in China

This can go both ways; meter or no meter. You can always negotiate the price in China if they won't use the meter. Try to arrange a taxi from the hotel you are staying at or have your vendor pick you up.

Presenting your business card

The process of exchanging business cards with people in Hong Kong or China carries more significance than in the West. You should hand your business card to the other person with both hands and the writing facing the recipient. You should also take their business card with both hands and read the card. Check the back of the card for additional information. If your card has different languages on each side, present the side with language that would be most comfortable to the recipient.

Gifts

When meeting your vendor for the first time or after a long separation you should bring a gift. The gifts can be something special from your hometown or a bottle of wine, a nice pen etc. This really depends on your relationship with the vendor. You will often receive gifts from the vendor. Don't get caught up in the game of always returning the favor. It will never end. Your continued business with them is the gift they will like the most.

Key Chinese phrases

Thank you – xie xie (similar to shay shay)

Hello – Ni hao (knee how)

Good bye – zai jian

Things to bring

- Lots of business cards
- Baby powder
- Imodium AD
- Small bottle of hand sanitizer/ or baby wipes
- A couple small packets of tissue
- Sneakers (for trade shows and factory visits)