

Travel around Hong Kong

General Tips

We recommend using **Google Maps** to find your way.

Public transportation & Octopus card

Hong Kong has one of the best mass transit systems in the world consisting of ferries, trams, buses, and metros. To make use of this vast transport system, we recommend purchasing the tourist “**Octopus Card**”, which is a travel card that you can top-up (with cash). You can use the Octopus Card for **all methods of public transport and in most convenience stores, supermarkets, canteen, restaurants, etc.**

Note that if you don't buy this card, you can still use the ticket machine at MTR (Metro) stations, but it is less convenient and you will need to pay the exact fare each time (no returns).

How to obtain and add money to the tourist Octopus Card

The easiest way is to get it at the airport near the Airport Express Station, which costs HKD 150. There is enough money stored (\$111) for taking the MTR from the airport to your destination. The card itself costs \$39 and is non-refundable and can be brought home as a souvenir or used the next time you visit Hong Kong.

You can also get the tourist Octopus card at the customer service at the MTR stations or any 7-Eleven/Circle K store.

You can top-up money on your Octopus card with cash through any of the top-up machines in any MTR station, but you only use HK\$50 or HK\$100 notes. You can also top-up with cash at any 7-eleven, circle K, McDonalds.

How do I use Octopus card



MTR



Bus/Tram

There are special scanners to pay with Octopus cards, you just tap the card and move on.

MTR (metro):

You have to use the Octopus card when entering the paid area of a station and when you leave again at another station.

Bus:

You enter the bus through the front and use the Octopus card when you enter the bus. No need to use it when you get off.

Tram:

You enter the tram through the back and it is always HK\$3, which you pay on your way out only. Note, for the special tram to Victoria Peak you need to pay HK\$88 before you enter.

Ferry:

You pay for the ferry before you board.

Payment at restaurants and stores

Most supermarkets, stores, and restaurants in Hong Kong, especially the modern and international shops, usually accept VISA/MasterCard, Apple Pay, and sometimes American Express. The payment options are usually displayed on the facade of the store, but it is advised to always have some cash with you since it can easily be missed that they only accept cash. Generally, very old traditional restaurants, outdoor markets, and wet markets only accept cash.

The even more common option is the Octopus card, so we do recommend you can get one. You can just say “Octopus” and the shop will tell you where to tap the scanner.

Note for participants from mainland China: Only some restaurants and shops accept WeChat pay but do not expect most places to do so.

Where to eat

Hong Kong is known as a food paradise with both top-tier local food and international food. To find restaurants, we recommend using www.openrice.com or downloading the OpenRice App. All restaurants in Hong Kong are there and you search by what is near you, or highest rated in a certain distance, or the average price per meal. You can also see the menu and price for each dish.

If you want to order takeaway, you can use Deliveroo/Foodpanda (website/App) to get it delivered or pick it up at the restaurant by yourself.

Tipping

It is not mandatory to tip in Hong Kong and you typically won't get asked. The upper-mid tier and high-end restaurants usually have a 10% mandatory tip and it is automatically added to the bill. If restaurant charges a tip, it will clearly be mentioned on the menu .