



(CITY GUIDE)

THIS IS HONG KONG

Luxury stays with stories

Hotels



Why Hong Kong is a cocktail capital
Food & Drink



Quirky and indie boutiques

Nightlife

CURATOR'S NOTE

ong Kong is a city for the restless and the insatiable: the people who stay up all night at private kitchens and glamorous clubs; the people who wake up early to do tai chi at Kowloon Park; the ones who have time for leisurely dim sum and rush to queue up at a trendy new restaurant; who go windsurfing at one of its many beaches and end the day with a drink at an impossibly chic bar.

There's so much going on every day and every night, it's no wonder that so many people come to the city thinking that they'll stay for a few months, only to end up living here for years, even decades. In Hong Kong, it's possible to discover something new every day – this guide is just the beginning. —Maloy Luakian



Old and new routinely rub shoulders in Hong Kong, both on land and at sea











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EDITORIAL

City Editor **Maloy Luakian**Art Director **Marlon Espino**

SALES

Commercial Head **Lynn Ashlee** lynn.ashlee@ink-global.com



Chief Executive Officer

Michael Keating

Chief Operating and Financial Officer

Jim Campbell

Managing Director, APAC

Ric Stockfis

Senior Group Editors

James P. Ong, Mrigaa Sethi

www.ink-global.com

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There's plenty in between Hong Kong's cha chaan tengs and Michelin-starred temples of gastronomy – check out this curated list of must-visits on your next trip



Raise a toast

With regular entrants on the Asia's 50 Best Bars list, the Fragrant Harbour is a veritable cocktail capital.





INDIE ART CRAWL

Hong Kong is famous for its stunning museums, but art-lovers should make time for the independent galleries.



My Hong Kong

Queenie Rosita Law, founder of Double Q Gallery, takes us through her perfect day in Hong Kong





BEYOND THE BASICS

Over the designer labels? Hong Kong's indie boutiques offer memorable apparel, home décor and other delights.



Around the neighborhood

Author, journalist and humorist Nury Vittachi shares his favorite part of Hong Kong





STAYS ABOVE THE FRAY

Hong Kong's boutique and heritage hotels offer both luxury and a unique perspective on the city's history and culture.



Green adventures

With 75% greenery, Hong Kong is one of the greenest cities in the world, home to many country parks and hiking trails





JOURNEY OF FLAVORS

Delicious food is a major reason why visitors flock to Hong Kong – from old-school cha chaan tengs to glitzy Michelin-starred temples of gastronomy. But there's plenty in between – check out this curated list of must-visits on your next trip.





CHILLI FAGARA

Sichuan food isn't only about spiciness, and the extensive menu at Chilli Fagara will show you the delicious nuances of the region's famous mala tang flavors, with classics like mapo tofu and their famous Emperor prawns. Run by a family that's been in the restaurant business for 10 generations, Chilli Fagara also has a takeaway noodle spot called Hot & Meen for those in a hurry to get their fix.



ANKÔMA

A tiny boutique restaurant with three young chefs led by Frankie Wong, who was previously chef de partie at Michelin-starred Écriture, Ankôma's 10-dish tasting menu balances French and Japanese techniques and flavors in delightful ways – sea urchin French toast, anyone? Diners will also enjoy sitting counter-style and watching the chefs prepare and cook the food up close.





MADAME FU

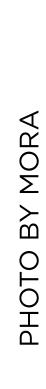
Inspired by 1930s Shanghai – with a fictional backstory about a jet-setting socialite to boot—Madame Fu promises an experience, not just a meal. Set in Tai Kwun, the Former Central Police Station, Madame Fu pays homage to a life of decadence, which is reflected in its menu of sophisticated Cantonese dishes executed with a contemporary flair.



DAAP

Named after the Cantonese character for "taking time to taste," daap is a rare affordable fine-dining experience. With a Chinese-European menu that focuses on surprising combinations like a rich Chinese sausage and onsen tamago carbonara, the down-to-earth and friendly restaurant has quickly gathered regulars from around the neighborhood and beyond.







MORA

Acclaimed Michelin-starred chef Vicky Lau's new French-Chinese restaurant MORA puts the spotlight on soy, elevating the humble staple ingredient to fine-dining heights. You'll be amazed by the variety of textures and flavors that come out of the soy-centered menu, like fermented soy-battered fried chicken and cold noodles with soy milk.

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Curator's Tip

Hong Kong is the only place to get luxe mooncakes in boxes that look like Ferris wheels or illustrated by famous artists. Pick them up from five-star hotels or even designer brands as fantastic souvenirs.



Raise a toast

With a glut of international talent, plenty of quirky spaces and an appreciative crowd, the cocktail scene in Hong Kong is second to none

There's no doubt that Hong Kongers love their cocktails, and rightly so. With regular entrants on the Asia's 50 Best Bars list, the Fragrant Harbour is a veritable cocktail capital. Each year sees a new crop of award-winning bars emerging to satisfy thirsty drinkers.



The speakeasy trend has produced fun bars like Room 309 (a hotel room in The Pottinger that's not supposed to exist) and most recently, Maggie Choo's (hidden behind an antique shop), both featuring sophisticated drinks menus that go with their clientele.

Drinkers looking for an unusual experience will enjoy Penicillin, where the mad-scientist bartenders



whip up all kinds of local and fermented ingredients in a laboratory behind the counter.

Adventurous drinkers can also try The Savoury Project, which turns away from sweet drinks to craft cocktails with umami and savory flavors instead.



Of course, the classic neighborhood bars are still around, and there's games and company to enjoy at the playful Blotto, which is shaping up to be a regular casual hangout spot.

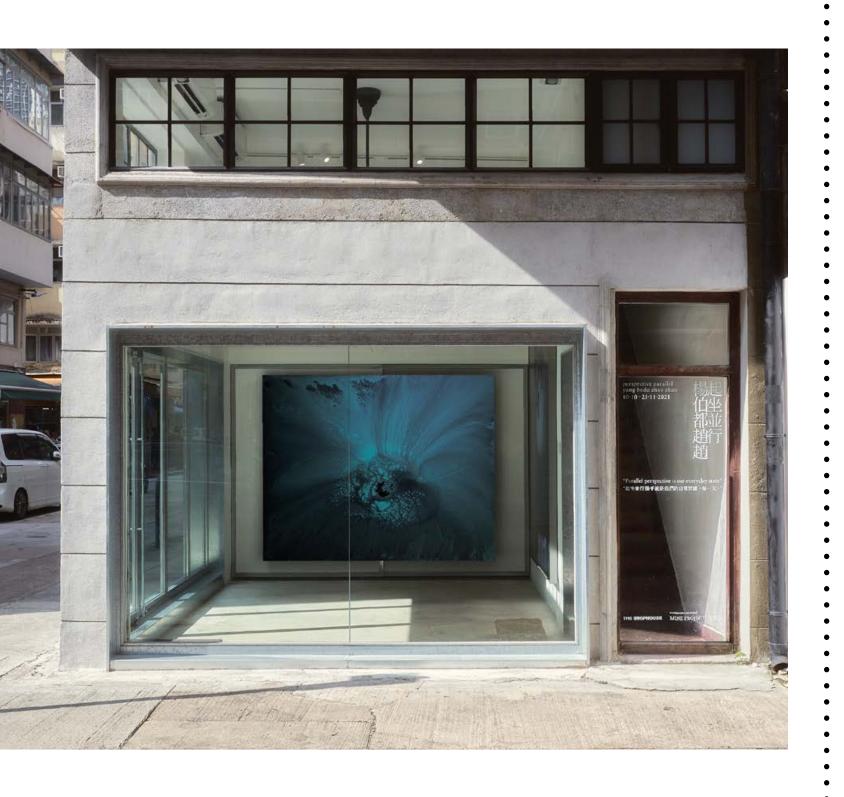




INDIE ART CRAVL

Hong Kong is famous for its stunning museums, and you don't need us to tell you all about these glittering institutions. Art-lovers should make time for the independent galleries and museums that are too easily overlooked. Add these to your itinerary.





THE SHOPHOUSE

Unlike a typical white box gallery, The Shophouse takes up room in a five-storey tenement building built in the 1930s, with each floor offering a different experience. Apart from the gallery space, there's a study featuring books curated by current exhibiting artists, a vintage store and a garden where visitors are encouraged to hang out.



DOUBLE Q GALLERY

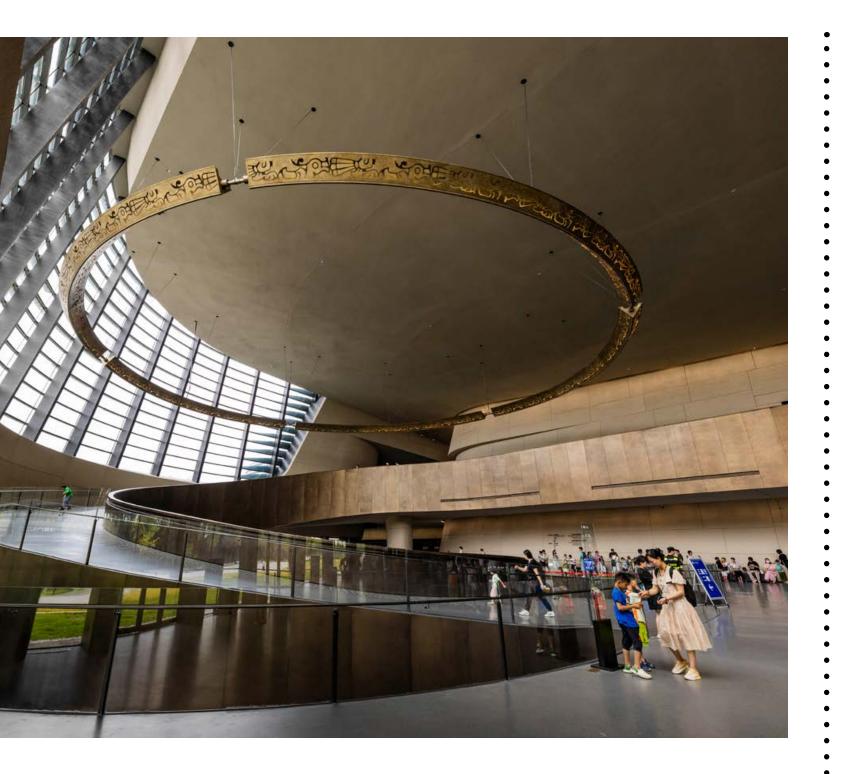
With its direct connection to a nonprofit art institution in Budapest, Double Q Gallery is bursting with Central and Eastern European art that you won't find anywhere else. The industrial-chic gallery is around the corner from an antiques market in the eclectic Sheung Wan neighborhood, and it's known for hosting regular exhibits and events for a young and artsy crowd.



Curator's Tip

Traditional Cantonese opera lives on in Sunbeam Theatre, which holds performances five days a week. The theatre has been on the verge of closing several times but has managed to hold on thanks to mysterious wealthy benefactor.





HONG KONG PALACE MUSEUM

The Hong Kong Palace Museum is where you'll find the most fragile artworks in Hong Kong, housed in a modern interpretation of the Forbidden City. The museum has over 900 artifacts from centuries of Chinese civilization, and the intricate interiors and clever use of multimedia mean lots of surprises at every turn.



TAI KWUN

Tai Kwun dates back to 1864 and was a working police station and a prison until it was decommissioned in 2004 and 2006 respectively. It's now a marvel of heritage conservation, with the old cell blocks and offices transformed into exhibits and galleries. It's easy to lose track of time in the spacious compound with so many workshops and activities to enjoy.

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Curator's Tip

Galleries aren't the only place to enjoy art in Hong Kong. The HKWALLS Street Art Festival gets together international and local artists to paint murals all over the Central and Western districts.



My Hong Kong

Queenie Rosita Law, founder of Double Q Gallery, takes us through her perfect day in her city



"I love taking my dog for a walk at the Peak around 7 or 8 am, when it's quieter and full of locals. My dog can run freely and it's always during those times that I feel like I can slow down in a busy city like Hong Kong. The air is super fresh and crisp with zero tourists.

I will do Sushi Shin in Tai Hang for lunch, and afterwards, I will head to Sheung Wan for a coffee at Halfway Coffee, then spend the rest of the afternoon in the gallery with friends. For dinner, I love old-school classics like Tai Ping Koon—their Swiss chicken wings are my childhood favorite. Afterwards, a massage is a must at Ten Feet Tall."

More arts and culture coverage on Sawasdee.thaiairways.com



BEYOND THE BASICS

Visitors from around the region head to Hong Kong for luxury designer shopping. But the real thrill might just be the indie shops – if you know where to look. Here are some intriguing boutiques to shop for garments, décor and other thrills.





SMILING CONE

Visual artist Cone is like a French New Wave character come to life, and her shop in a converted textile mill is stamped all over with her whimsical and quirky aesthetic. There's plenty to choose from among the accessories, t-shirts and bags – and the cheerful sticker packs are a must-have.



KUBRICK

A Hong Kong institution, Kubrick bookshop next to Broadway Cinematheque isn't just a place where film connoisseurs go for their art film memorabilia and DVD fix, it's also a place where local writers and filmmakers host regular talks. After buying an indie vinyl or a limited-edition book, visitors can wander to the café for a coffee and a snack.





CENTRE FOR HERITAGE ARTS AND TEXTILE (CHAT)

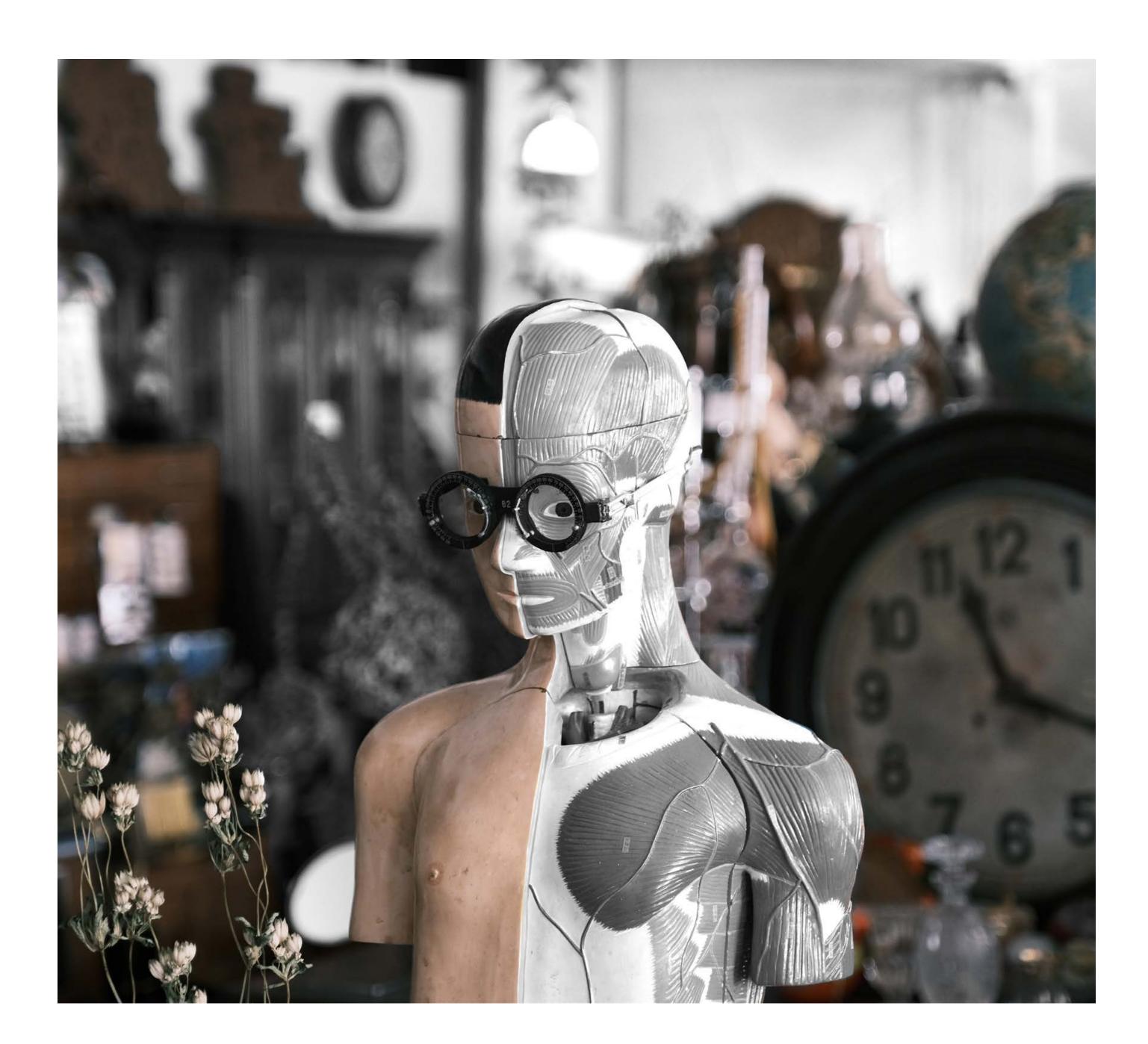
Founded as a heritage conservation project, CHAT produces thoughtful curated programs focused on textiles in an airy former cotton-spinning factory. It won't come as a surprise that the shop is just as beautifully curated, with original pieces like charming magnetic dress-up dolls and pop-art silk handkerchiefs made in-house or in collaboration with artists.



MERCURY IN DA HOUSE

One of the many gems in Granville Circuit, Mercury in da house shines especially bright because of stylish owner Raymond's fantastic taste and eye for authentic streetwear. You'll find rare vintage and new items in excellent condition ranging from BAPE to Junya Watanabe mingling among toys and knickknacks, and there's always something new and delightful in the shop.





JIKSAP

It's a trek to get to Jiksap in To Kwa Wan, but serious vintage lovers will make it anyway in order to get their hands on the high-quality wares. Jiksap specializes in furniture and housewares, but you'll always find something unexpected in the shop like ship lamps and glass bells.

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Curator's Tip

Where else can you get Shanghainese and English tailoring in one city? Don't leave without ordering a bespoke suit or shirt at W. W. Chan & Sons, MILK or Jantzen.

PHOTO BY JIKSAP

More amazing experiences around the network at Sawasdee.thaiairways.com



Around the neighborhood

Nury Vittachi, author, journalist and humorist on his favorite part of Hong Kong

"The Hong Kong island waterfront from
Tin Hau onwards has been dramatically
refurbished and is now a lovely 7km
harborside walk, starting with traditional old
junks and houseboats, and continuing on to
the futuristic modern heart of the city. It's an
easy stroll, and there's always lots of activity,
so bring your camera."





STAYS ABOVE THE FRAY

While five-star hotels are easy to find in Hong Kong – and often have the best views – discerning travellers should also check out the many boutique and heritage hotels which offer a unique perspective on the city's history and culture.







TAI O HERITAGE HOTEL

With only nine rooms, this heritage hotel along the serene western coast of Lantau Island guarantees privacy and a uniquely personalized experience; it almost feels like you're a guest at a very luxurious private residence. A meticulously restored marine police station built in 1902, the hotel is also a leader in conservation that co-exists tranquilly with the local fishing village and lush nature.

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Curator's Tip

Bring home good luck with a visit to one of Hong Kong's many temples: Wong Tai Sin for fortune telling, Che Kung Miu to turn the pinwheel of fortune, and Man Mo Temple for good exam results.

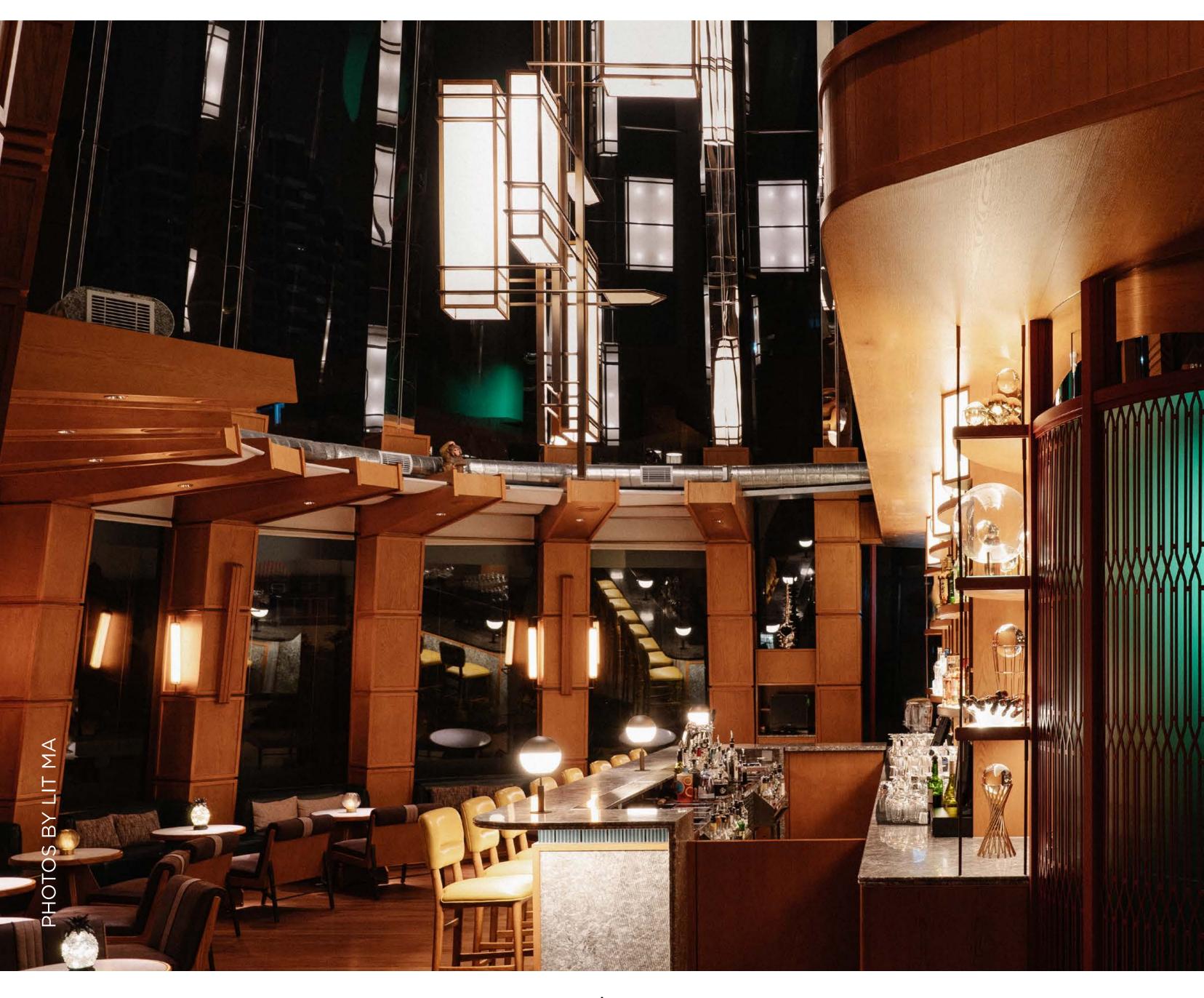


EATON HONG KONG

Right in the middle of the colorful Jordan district, Eaton Hong Kong is the place to stay for people looking to connect with Hong Kong's arts and culture scene. There's indie shows in the lively hotel bar, a Michelinstarred traditional Cantonese restaurant and a Wong Kar Wainspired food hall that also functions as a community hub for artistic types.















OVOLO SOUTHSIDE

Staying at Ovolo Southside in the artsy industrial district of Wong Chuk Hang is like staying in a gallery bursting with originality. Formerly a warehouse, it's now a hip hotel brimming with art and creative types working in the Komune Lounge. Free first round happy hour cocktails at the bar (a former shipping container) are a great accompaniment to the gorgeous views.

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Curator's Tip

Head over to Chi Lin Nunnery and next-door Nan Lian Garden to enjoy a tranquil afternoon in elegant Tang dynasty surroundings. There's also a Buddhist vegetarian restaurant if you're feeling hungry.

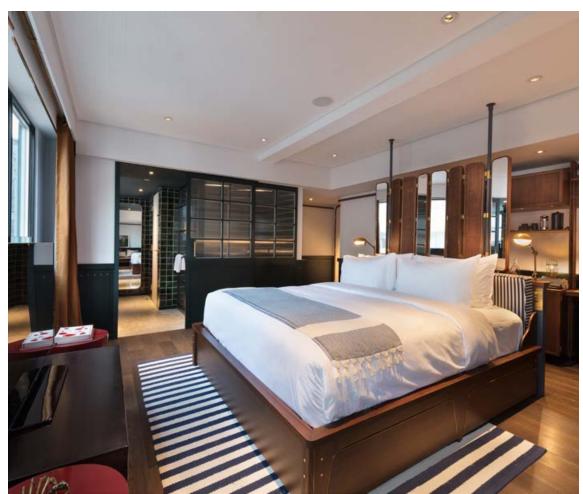


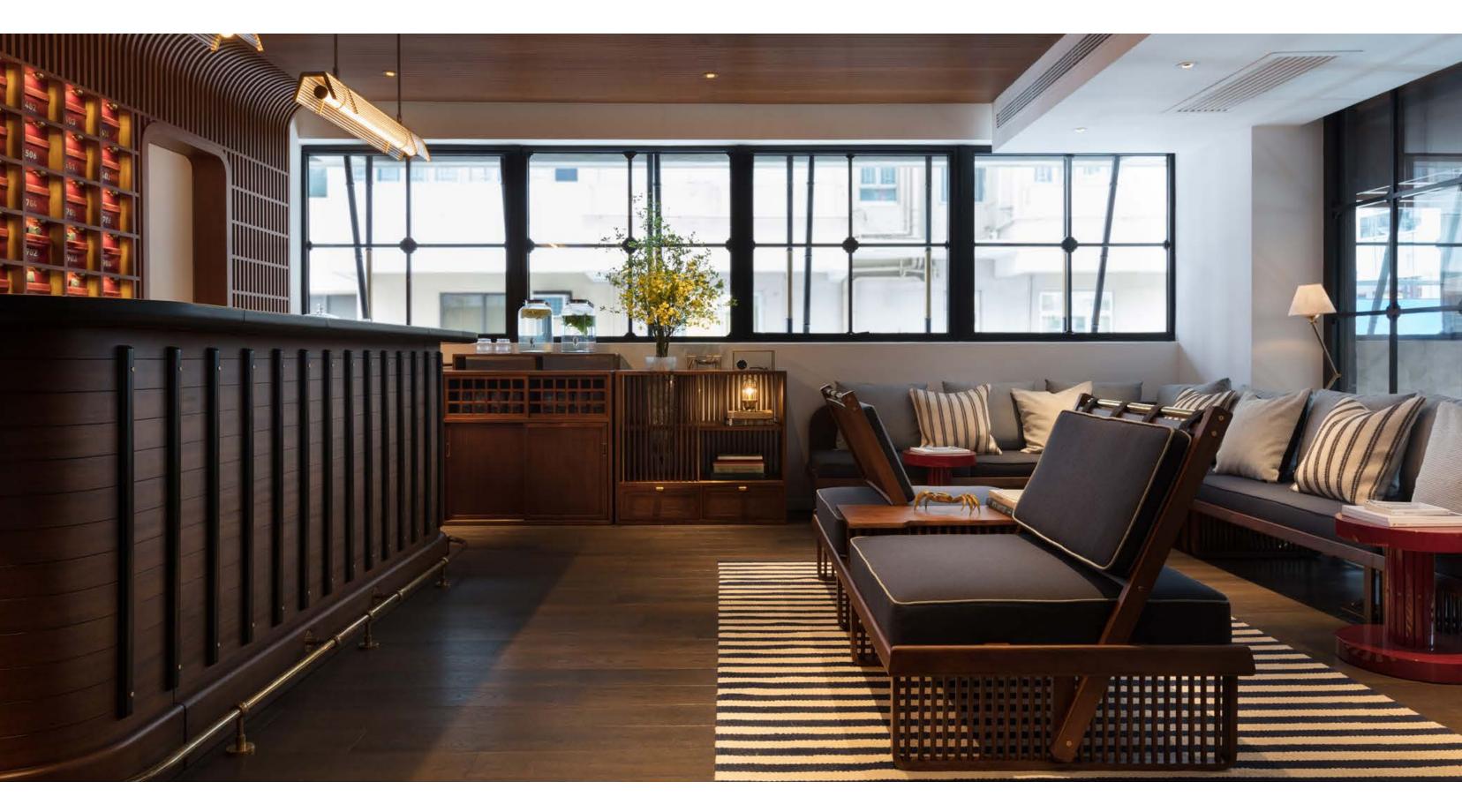
PHOTOS BY THE FLEMING

THE FLEMING

Inspired by Hong Kong's cross-harbor ferries, The Fleming is full of delightful nautical touches that harken back to the sophistication of the 1960s, from the brass finishings in the rooms to the matching elevators that look like you're entering a ship's hull. Adventurers will also love that the hotel is in a bustling section of Wanchai with plenty of dining and entertainment that's only minutes away from shopping in Causeway Bay.





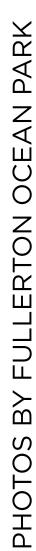


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Curator's Tip

Indie shows are back with local and international bands taking the stage at Hong Kong at MOM Livehouse and Music Zone, thanks to music organizers This Town Needs.











FULLERTON OCEAN PARK

You're practically guaranteed a room with a sea view at the Fullerton Ocean Park, a waterfront resort hotel that makes an effort to integrate with the verdant landscape of Hong Kong's beachy Southside. The hotel is almost a destination of its own, with a lagoon-like infinity pool, Water World theme park, and lots of activities, from ziplining in the hills behind the hotel to snorkeling in Ocean Park's giant aquarium.

Find more stylish hotels around the world at Sawasdee.thaiairways.com



Green adventures

Hong Kong's reputation as a dense, fast-paced, 24-hour city belies the fact that city is actually 75% greenery, making it one of the greenest cities in the world. Travelers would be remiss not to take advantage of the city's many country parks and hiking trails, which run the gamut of easy to challenging and often lead you to hidden jewels like waterfalls and beaches.

Sai Kung East Country Park alone has the most number of bays and coves among the country parks in the city, four of Hong Kong's most famous beaches, and a challenging climb up Sharp Peak. For a less taxing and more historical hike, there's the Tung O Ancient Trail that winds around Lantau North Country Park, starting at Tung Chung Fort, passing by beaches, quaint little villages and Tai Wong Temple before stopping at Tai O village, where you can enjoy waterfront seafood among the stilt houses.

