Why You Should Visit Hong Kong

There is no city in the world that can match up to the dizzying heights of Hong Kong. A visually stunning sight to behold, she is a mixture of East and West, of old and new, of familiarity and exoticness. Popular with Asian visitors and Western tourists, Hong Kong is one of the most visited islands in the world.

Hong Kong’s illuminated skyline with towering apartment and commercial buildings are typically the first thing that comes to mind when picturing this country. OwHHowever, Hong Kong is much more than an urban jungle. Much of the island is green, with mountains and hills perfect for hiking, leafy fragrant parks to relax in, a waterfront which bursts with colour and personality and beaches on the southern side of the island for families and adrenaline seekers.

Head across the harbour and discover the character of Kowloon and the New Territories. As you head to the little tapered back streets away from the waterfront you will discover a whole new side to Hong Kong. The district of Mongkok claims to be the most densely populated areas in the world. It is, also, one of the areas in Hong Kong where you can experience the real Chinese character instead of the more international atmosphere of the island itself.

Venture inland towards the Chinese border and experience a side of Hong Kong you’d never thought possible. The New Territories (named because this area was leased by the British 40 years after Hong Kong Island and Kowloon were forcibly annexed) and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) are inundated with vast areas of lush green hills, mountains and national parks where visitors can hike in.

If this wasn’t enough then the 260 islands which make up the Outlying Islands offer another aspect to experience. Many of the islands are inhabited and can be visited for a few hours or even overnight. Some islands prohibit cars and sights can be accessed either by foot or bike and, coupled with the lack of car noise, makes for a truly serene experience. Bigger islands such as Lantau offer fantastic sights to see including a giant Buddha reached by cable car or visit Lamma and Cheung Chai Islands for relaxing in the sunshine. The former Portuguese colony of Macau is not part of Hong Kong but it can be reached by boat and is a great way to spend a day or weekend.

No matter where you visit in Hong Kong – whether it is on the main Island, Kowloon, the New Territories or one of the Outlying Islands – you will never go hungry. Hong Kong is inundated with cafes, food stalls and restaurants of all calibres ensuring that visitors get the opportunity to try dishes from all over China as well as other Asian and Western countries. Hong Kong’s specialities include Cantonese cuisine and dim sum, but you can indulge in spicy Szechuan dishes made with hot chilli or northern specialities featuring lots of garlic and ginger. The British legacy continues today with many restaurants offering classic Sunday tea with cakes and finger foods, or try a range of African or Filipino dishes offered throughout the region.

For those who love festivals prepare to fall hard. Hong Kong does festivals like nowhere else in the entire world. With so many different nationalities and faith systems within its borders, there is always some festival taking place. This makes Hong Kong a truly vibrant destination, not merely an urban landscape or shopper’s paradise. With Disneyland, horse racing, surfing, shopping, temples, hiking opportunities, great food and so much more, Hong Kong is one of the few places in the world where there is something for everyone.