



Hong Kong - Low



Hong Kong Country Map



POLITICAL



ARMED CONFLICT



TERRORISM



CRIME



CIVIL UNREST



MARITIME AND PIRACY



HEALTH



ENVIRONMENTAL



TRANSPORTATION

Last Published: 04 June 2025

## COUNTRY OVERVIEW

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A former British colony, Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of China), operates in a 'one country, two systems' constitutional relationship with Beijing, which allows it a condition of semi-autonomy from the mainland until its expiration

in 2047. Under this agreement, Hong Kong is able to maintain a degree of self-governance, economic and financial independence, a separate legal system, and foreign trade relations. Hong Kong is the world's tenth-largest exporter and ninth-largest importer.

While Hong Kong has historically been a stable and peaceful travel destination, at the beginning of 2019 an unprecedented level of civil unrest, sparked by an attempt to introduce an extradition bill to China, began to impact the city. The protests started on 31 March and occasionally turned violent, with clashes between the demonstrators and the police, who used tear gas, batons and rubber bullets to disperse crowds. Despite the rallies, Hong Kong remains an overall safe destination, although it is advised that travellers be aware of the main flashpoints: Admiralty, Central and Sheung Wan. Although civil unrest does occur in central areas of Hong Kong, it generally does not present a risk to business travellers. However, the areas affected should be avoided and travellers should be mindful of the sensitivity of the subject of the relationship between Hong Kong and Beijing; open and hostile political propaganda might result in imprisonment.

| <b>KEY FACTS</b>  |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>CAPITAL</b>    | N/A                                      |
| <b>CURRENCY</b>   | Hong Kong Dollar                         |
| <b>GMT</b>        | +8                                       |
| <b>LANGUAGES</b>  | Cantonese, English, and Mandarin Chinese |
| <b>LEADERSHIP</b> | Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu         |

| <b>KEY FACTS</b> |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>RELIGION</b>  | Atheist, Agnostic, or non-aligned 54.3%, Buddhist or Taoist 27.9%, Protestant 6.7%, Roman Catholic 5.3%, Muslim 4.2%, Hindu 1.4%, Sikh 0.2% |

## RISK SUMMARY

### Political - Moderate

The Head of the Hong Kong Government, the Chief Executive, serves as the head of state. The Chief Executive is elected by a committee of 1,200 members from a pool of candidates selected by Beijing.

Since 01 July 2022, John Lee Ka-Chiu has served as Chief Executive of Hong Kong, succeeding Carrie Lam. John Lee is known for being against the pro-democracy camp and a supporter of the National Security Law.

From the British handover in 1997, Hong Kong's Basic Law and “One Country, Two Systems” model granted Hong Kong a degree of self-autonomy, political rights and civil liberties. The National Security Law (NSL), introduced in 2020 by the Chinese government, penalises secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion. Since its introduction, the Chinese government has gained more political power over Hong Kong.

The democratic crackdown by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) from 2020 has resulted in no major pro-democracy parties within the parliament in Hong Kong. The final and oldest pro-democracy party in the Hong Kong government, the Democratic Party (DP), has started preparations to disband in 2025.

## Armed Conflict - Low

Hong Kong has no standing army. Responsibility for the region's defence falls upon the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), which maintains a manned garrison in the territory. Hong Kong remains a neutral actor in most international conflicts due to its lack of military capabilities.

Due to the increasing number of pro-Beijing politicians since 2022, Hong Kong has largely been supportive of China's territorial disputes with Taiwan.

## Terrorism - Low

There is a low threat of terrorism in Hong Kong due to the minimal influence the region holds on international affairs. Potential threats may be directed toward the territory's historic ties with the United Kingdom, or the region's hosting of several government and financial institutions of the People's Republic of China.

The Hong Kong Police Force has launched a counter-terrorism reporting hotline - 63 666-999 in hopes it will encourage residents to make reports.

## Crime - Low

The crime rate in Hong Kong is considered to be low. Hong Kong has very crowded urban centres which carry the risk of petty crime. Tourists are the primary targets, with cases of passports, credit cards and other valuables having been stolen. Petty crime occurs particularly in the areas of the airport, public transport, shopping areas, hotel lobbies, any overcrowded areas, and tourist attractions. There have been some isolated incidents of robberies in Hong Kong's Country Parks; these incidents have been reduced following a crime prevention operation by the Hong Kong Police. Drink spiking has been reported in some bars and nightclubs in Hong Kong, particularly in the Wan Chai area. Travellers should never leave drinks unattended. The Sham Shui Po and Mong Kok areas have a reputation for criminal activity.

Hong Kong enforces severe penalties for crimes perceived as threats to the state. The National Security Law (NSL), enacted on 30 June 2020, criminalises seces-

sion, subversion, terrorism, and collusion with foreign countries, with penalties including life imprisonment. Offences committed abroad are also punishable. The Chinese government may sanction individuals or entities for statements critical of the Communist Party, government, or leadership. On 19 March 2024, the pro-Beijing administration introduced Article 23 to the NSL, imposing harsh penalties (20 years to life imprisonment) for crimes like treason, espionage, and sabotage, as part of broader efforts to prevent unrest in the region.

There is a risk of kidnapping in Hong Kong. Local criminal gangs have in the past targeted foreign nationals for ransom purposes. This has been carried out by criminal gangs, but also by Chinese security forces, who may target high-profile individuals (such as political dissidents) for political purposes.

Hong Kong has strict laws regarding the use, importation, or exportation of different items such as firearms and live ammunition, weapons such as knuckledusters and batons, e-cigarettes, powdered baby formula, and plant or animal products that could carry disease or pests.

### Civil Unrest - Low

Hong Kong has had a long history of pro-democracy movements. The 2003 Article 23 protests and the 2014 Umbrella Movement demanded greater autonomy and democratic representation. Hong Kong experienced significant civil unrest between 2019 and 2020. The introduction of the 2019 extradition bill sparked public backlash and resulted in significant pro-democracy demonstrations. There were nearly two million attendees at its peak, which lasted for around a year. As a result, the National Security Law (NSL) was introduced in 2020.

There is a heavy-handed approach to protests in Hong Kong. During the 2019-2020 pro-democracy demonstrations, violent clashes between protesters and authorities were frequent. The protests were characterised by the use of lethal improvised weaponry, such as firebombs and bows, and arrows. Law enforcement authorities and riot police are known to employ violent crowd suppression methods, such as tear gas, rubber bullets, and live ammunition.

The introduction of the National Security Law (NSL) has dissuaded any further significant unrest against the pro-Beijing administration due to the criminal repercussions involved. It is illegal to take part in public demonstrations without the

Hong Kong government's approval. Protests most likely occur in the Central District near the various government buildings in the Central Government Complex. Victoria Park is additionally subject to increased security presence on the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, where past vigils have been held.

Police authority is widespread throughout Hong Kong. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has a garrison of 6,000 combat-ready troops stationed in the city to aid the police in maintaining order if requested to do so by the Hong Kong authorities. Arrests against those critical of the Chinese government are frequent and have resulted in significant exiles who have fled the country. Notable pro-democracy activists and business leaders who are critical of the government have been arrested and are standing trial.

In March 2024, the passage of the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance imposed severe prison sentences for activism and expanded police and judicial powers. Penalties for acts such as treason, espionage, sabotage and collusion with foreign entities can result in 20 years to life imprisonment. The ambiguity surrounding the article's definition of the listed criminal acts urges travellers to avoid any acts or comments that are critical of the Chinese state.

Travellers should monitor local news and social media to stay informed about developments, avoid protest areas, and follow guidance from local authorities to ensure their safety.

## Maritime and Piracy - Low

The maritime and piracy risk levels in the territorial waters of Hong Kong are currently assessed as low. However, the primary threats stem from the high volume of maritime traffic and environmental hazards.

The Port of Hong Kong, one of the busiest container ports globally has high volume of maritime traffic greatly amplifies the risk of collisions and accidents, as merchant vessels navigate the increasingly congested waterways. The risk is particularly pronounced in the narrow passages of Victoria Harbour, where limited manoeuvrability and dense traffic exacerbate safety concerns. In addition to large container ships, the waterways are frequently used by a variety of vessels, including ferries, fishing boats, and recreational craft.

Hong Kong is frequently hit by typhoons, especially during the summer months. These storms pose significant risks to maritime operations, often causing delays, damage to vessels and port infrastructure, and disruptions to port services.

## **Health - Moderate**

Healthcare provision is generally of a very high standard, although proof of insurance is often required for treatment and upfront costs are high. There are 43 public hospitals in Hong Kong and 12 private hospitals.

A variety of diseases, including avian flu, foot and mouth, tuberculosis, and hepatitis occur sporadically, particularly in rural or less urbanised areas. Visitors may undergo temperature screening at borders. Hong Kong has screening arrangements in place for travellers arriving from countries affected by the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV), including the Republic of Korea, as well as COVID-19. Hong Kong also suffers occasional bouts of mosquito-borne disease and sensible precautions, i.e. long sleeves and use of a repellent, should be taken.

Pollution is a frequent hazard in Hong Kong and may seriously affect those with pre-existing heart or breathing conditions. Activities should be moderated to allow for the daily pollution level.

## **Environmental - Moderate**

The typhoon season in Hong Kong runs from April to October and may result in flooding and landslides. The Hong Kong Observatory has an excellent notification and monitoring system. A 'Black Rain' warning may result in significant travel and business disruption. Public offices shut down when the 'Typhoon 8' signal is hoisted. When a typhoon approaches within 800 kilometres of Hong Kong a warning signal 1 is issued. Eight is issued when wind speeds reach 63-117 kilometres an hour.

The Typhoon 8 signal was issued on 8 September 2023 due to extreme weather conditions caused by Typhoon Haikui. Haikui caused widespread flooding, landslides, and disruptions to public transport. The Hong Kong government advised residents to stay at home for their safety. At least two people were killed and more

than 100 injured due to the record rainfall. Haikui caused the heaviest rain in Hong Kong since records began 140 years ago. A Typhoon 8 signal was issued again due to the passage of Typhoon Koinu in October 2023. On 9 October, it was reported at least 25 people were injured due to the effects of Typhoon Koinu.

In 2024 Hong Kong has been in the close vicinity of typhoons such as Tropical Cyclone Toraji, Super Typhoon Yagi and Severe Tropical Storm Prapiroon.

One of the top environmental risks in Hong Kong is air pollution. Hong Kong registers a high amount of street-level air pollution which can have long-term impacts on residents with respiratory issues.

### Transportation - Low

Hong Kong has a developed transportation network. Hong Kong International Airport is the nation's primary airport, serving over 100 airlines. Hong Kong is served by an extensive and modern road network, which includes motorways, major roads, and secondary roads (vehicles drive on the left, as in the UK). Due to the densely populated nature of Hong Kong, traffic jams are common.

Hong Kong is dominated by steep, hilly terrain, which has necessitated the development of unique methods of transport up and down the slopes. Hong Kong is home to an extensive public transport network that includes the Mass Transit Railway (MTR), busses, trams, and ferries. Several licensed passenger ferry routes operate between Kowloon and Hong Kong Island, alongside many routes that shuttle passengers to Macau and mainland China. These services are generally of good quality and can be considered safe. Over 90 percent of daily trips are made on public transport, the highest percentage globally.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>EMERGENCY DETAILS</b>   |     |
| <b>IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL 24/7 OPERATIONS CENTRE AT +44 (0)1202 795 801. LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES CAN BE REACHED BY DIALING 999.</b> |     |
| <b>POLICE NUMBER</b>   | 999 |

| <b>EMERGENCY DETAILS</b> |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| <b>AMBULANCE NUMBER</b>  | 999 |
| <b>FIRE NUMBER</b>       | 999 |
| <b>EMERGENCY DETAILS</b> |     |

## TRAVEL

### TRAVEL ADVICE

Although Hong Kong is technically a part of China, it is a Special Administrative Region and requires a special visa. This can be obtained from local Chinese diplomatic missions. Tourists travelling to mainland China from Hong Kong will require a Chinese visa. These cannot be obtained at the border, unless applying for the 5-day Shenzhen visa, which will only allow travellers to visit the city of Shenzhen, just across the border from Hong Kong. Tourists can visit Hong Kong for up to six months without a visa, although this does not allow travellers to take up employment. Travellers with electronic cigarettes will need a prescription indicating that it is for personal use; this will not be required if the device is nicotine-free. There have been some isolated incidents of robbery in Hong Kong's country parks; this includes the Sai Kung East Country Park and the Tai Mo Shan Country Park. Following a concerted police effort in these areas, the risks have been mitigated. The country parks in Hong Kong may have limited medical assistance facilities and are likely to be difficult to access for emergency services. It is important to bring water with you when hiking, as high temperatures and humidity can cause severe dehydration. Within central Hong Kong, certain areas are often subject to political protests. Demonstrations typically end near the Liaison Office, which is the site of the Chinese local administration. Travellers should avoid this area during times of civil unrest and anticipate a large police presence. The Mong Kok area has in the past been the site of organised criminality. This area should be avoided at night.

Homosexuality is legal in Hong Kong and protections against government discrimination and harassment based on sexuality are enshrined in law. However, LGBTQ+ travellers may experience prejudices amongst the general population of Hong Kong. Travellers are advised to exercise caution when expressing their LGBTQ+ identity in public.

## SIGNIFICANT DATES

### DECEMBER 21, 2025

- **December Solstice:** Hong Kong - Seasonal

### DECEMBER 25, 2025

- **Christmas Day:** Hong Kong - National

### DECEMBER 26, 2025

- **Boxing Day:** Hong Kong - National

### DECEMBER 31, 2025

- **New Year's Eve:** Hong Kong - Observance

### JANUARY 01, 2026

- **New Year's Day:** Hong Kong - National

### FEBRUARY 14, 2026

- **Valentine's Day:** Hong Kong - Observance

## SIGNIFICANT DATES

### **FEBRUARY 17, 2026**

- **Chinese Lunar New Year's Day:** Hong Kong - National

### **FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

- **Second day of Chinese Lunar New Year:** Hong Kong - National

### **FEBRUARY 19, 2026**

- **Third day of Chinese Lunar New Year:** Hong Kong - National

### **MARCH 20, 2026**

- **March Equinox:** Hong Kong - Seasonal

### **APRIL 03, 2026**

- **Good Friday:** Hong Kong - National

### **APRIL 04, 2026**

- **Tomb Sweeping Day:** Hong Kong - National
- **Holy Saturday:** Hong Kong - National

### **APRIL 05, 2026**

- **Easter Sunday:** Hong Kong - Observance

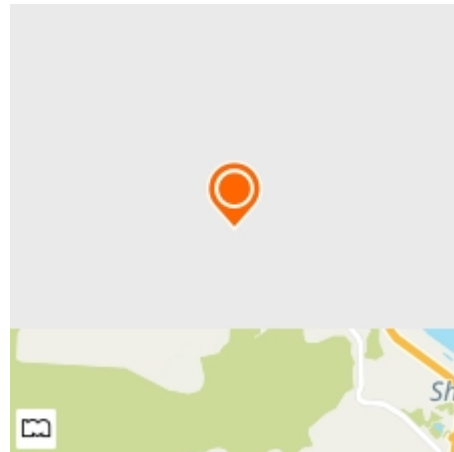
## SIGNIFICANT DATES

**APRIL 06, 2026**

- **Easter Monday:** Hong Kong - National

## RECENT ALERTS

**UPDATE: OVER 36 DEAD AND AT LEAST 279 PEOPLE MISSING AMID APARTMENT BUILDING FIRE IN TAI PO DISTRICT**



**Category:** Caution - **Risk:** High

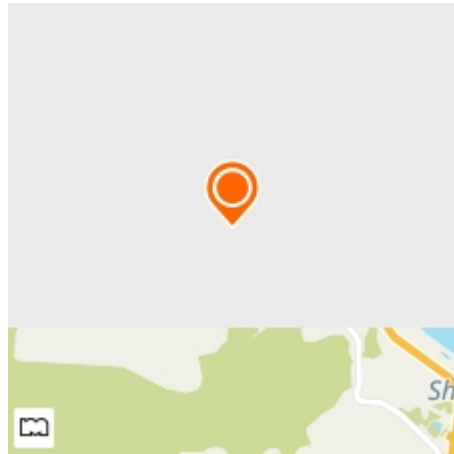


26-Nov-2025 17:46

According to local media sources, at least 36 people have died and at least 279 remain missing as a result of the ongoing apartment block fire in the Tai Po district of Hong Kong. The Chief Executive of Hong Kong has reported that the fire is slowly being brought under control but has not yet been extinguished. The death toll is likely to change as more information becomes available.

## RECENT ALERTS

### **UPDATE: AT LEAST 13 DEAD AND 30 INJURED DUE TO HIGH-RISE FIRE IN SHAU KEI WAN NEIGHBOURHOOD, TAI PO DISTRICT**



**Category:** Caution - **Risk:** High

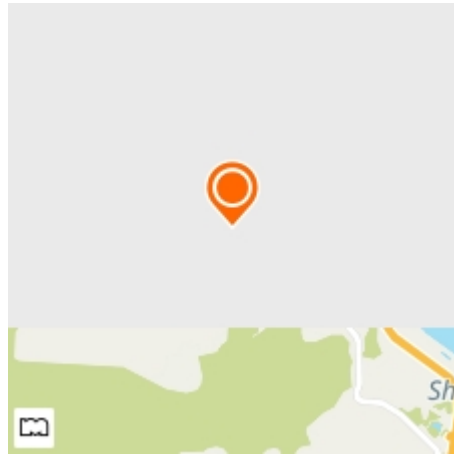


26-Nov-2025 16:26

According to local media reports, at least 13 people have died, and 30 others have been injured due to the ongoing apartment block fire in the Tai Po district of Hong Kong. The fire has been declared a No. 5 fire which is the highest level. It is currently unclear when the fire will be extinguished. It is understood that numerous residents remain trapped within the building at this time.

### **UPDATE: AT LEAST FOUR KILLED DUE TO HIGH-RISE FIRE IN SHAU KEI WAN NEIGHBOURHOOD**

## RECENT ALERTS



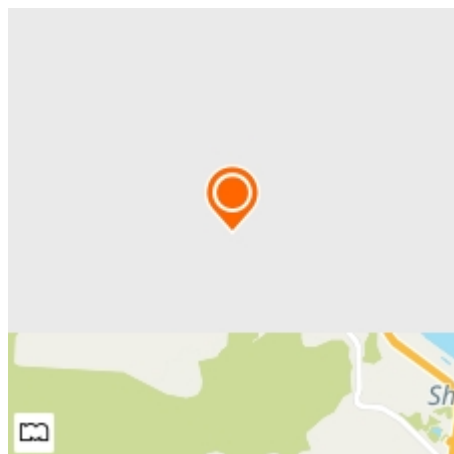
**Category:** Caution - **Risk:** High



26-Nov-2025 10:25

According to local media sources, at least four people, including a firefighter, have been killed and several others injured due to the ongoing apartment building fires in the Shau Kei Wan neighbourhood of Hong Kong. It is understood that an unknown number of people remain trapped inside the building. The fire has been classified as a No. 4 alarm fire, which is the second-highest level.

### AT LEAST EIGHT INJURED DUE TO HIGH-RISE FIRE IN SHAU KEI WAN NEIGHBOURHOOD



## RECENT ALERTS

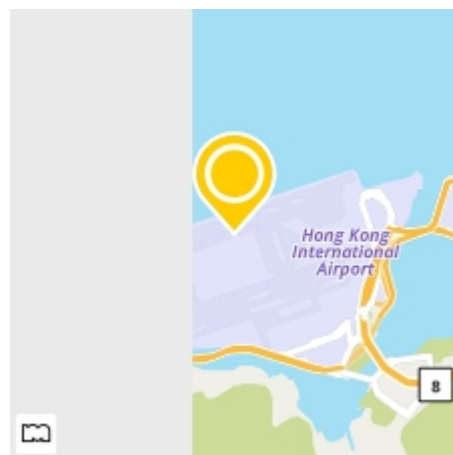
**Category:** Caution - **Risk:** High



26-Nov-2025 09:33

Local media reports that at least eight people have been injured due to a large fire which broke out in a high-rise building in the Shau Kei Wan neighbourhood of Hong Kong. It is understood that some of the injured include fire services staff. Ground sources report that explosions have been heard on the scene and that the fire has spread to adjacent apartment buildings via external scaffolding. Footage circulating online shows the fire spreading to multiple buildings, causing substantial damage and a large plume of smoke. Emergency services are in attendance and are actively fighting the fire. The cause of the fire is currently unknown.

## CARGO PLANE RUNS OFF RUNWAY AT HKG AND PLUNGES INTO SEA



**Category:** Travel Information - **Risk:** Moderate



19-Oct-2025 22:29

## RECENT ALERTS

According to local media sources, a cargo plane arriving from Dubai ran off the runway at Hong Kong International Airport (HKG) and partly plunged into the sea before striking a ground-service vehicle. The event reportedly occurred around 04:40 local time, with rescue operations involving fire services, marine police, and a Government Flying Service helicopter still ongoing. The four crew members aboard were not injured in the incident, but one of the ground staff members inside the vehicle has been confirmed dead, with the other currently unaccounted for. The north runway has been temporarily closed pending debris removal; however, operations at HKG have not been halted at this time. The cause of the incident remains under investigation.

## ONGOING THIRD ALARM FIRE IN CHINACHEM TOWER IN CENTRAL



**Category:** Caution - **Risk:** Moderate



18-Oct-2025 09:45

Local media reports an ongoing third alarm fire in Chinachem Tower, Connaught Road Central, Central. Emergency services are on the scene attempting to contain the blaze which started at approximately 16:24 local time. At least 30 people have been evacuated, with a further three trapped inside an elevator.

## RECENT ALERTS

Rescue operations are underway. The extent of damage and casualties is currently unclear; however, there are reports of injuries due to smoke inhalation.

We will monitor the situation and provide updates as necessary.

### UPDATE: SEVERAL INJURED IN BOTH HONG KONG AND MACAU DUE TO SUPER TYPHOON RAGASA



**Category:** Environmental - **Risk:** Severe



24-Sep-2025 05:16

Local media have reported that several people have been injured following the arrival of Super Typhoon Ragasa in both Hong Kong and Macau. There have been at least 56 injuries in Hong Kong due to weather-related incidents, and severe flooding has affected roads and buildings. Macao has additionally been significantly affected with buildings damaged, trees downed, and power lines affected. The Typhoon is currently en route to Guangdong, where around 400,000 individuals have been evacuated. The highest level warning has been downgraded in Hong Kong at 1320 local time as the Typhoon exits the city.

## RECENT ALERTS

### **UPDATE: HONG KONG OBSERVATORY ISSUES HIGHEST-LEVEL TYPHOON WARNING AMID APPROACH OF SUPER TYPHOON RAGASA**



**Category:** Environmental - **Risk:** High

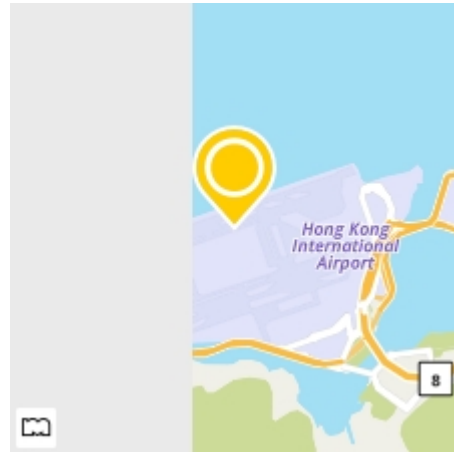


23-Sep-2025 21:47

The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) issued its highest-level weather warning, the No. 10 signal, at 02:40 local time as Super Typhoon Ragasa approaches. The typhoon is currently located 190 kilometres southeast of Hong Kong, generating maximum sustained winds of 220 km/h. In response, all non-essential services and businesses have been closed, and travel has been severely disrupted, with over 700 flights at Hong Kong International Airport cancelled. The HKO advises residents to remain indoors, avoid all travel, and stay away from coastal areas due to the risk of storm surges. The warnings are expected to remain active through 25 September. Further information is limited at this time.

### **SUPER TYPHOON RAGASA TO SEVERELY DISRUPT OPERATIONS AT HKG AIRPORT**

## RECENT ALERTS



**Category:** Travel Information - **Risk:** Moderate

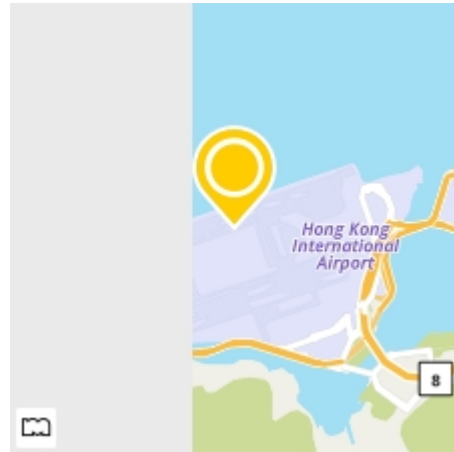


22-Sep-2025 14:12

Cathay Pacific, Hong Kong's flag carrier, has announced the suspension of all flights arriving at and departing from Hong Kong International Airport (HKG) from 1800 on 23 September until 0600 on 25 September. The disruption follows Typhoon Ragasa's passage over the Philippines and its forecasted approach towards Hong Kong. Local media indicates that at least 700 flights will be cancelled, with further cancellations expected as other airlines adjust their schedules in the coming days. Normal flight operations at HKG are expected to gradually resume from 25 September.

**FLIGHT CANCELLATIONS EXPECTED AT HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (HKG) WITH THE APPROACH OF TYPHOON RAGASA**

## RECENT ALERTS



**Category:** Travel Information - **Risk:** Moderate



22-Sep-2025 11:56

Local media have reported that flight cancellations are expected at Hong Kong International Airport (HKG) as Typhoon Ragasa approaches from the Philippines. Preliminary reports suggest that flight cancellations will begin on the evening of 23 September and will last 36 hours, affecting around 700 flights. The Typhoon is said to be the strongest this year. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates when necessary.

## FCDO SUMMARY

Last updated: 12/11/2025 11:32:21

### Warnings and insurance

This travel advice covers the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR). For mainland China, see [travel advice for China](#) and for Macao SAR, see [Macao travel advice](#).

## Dual Chinese-British nationality

Hong Kong does not recognise dual nationality. If you have both British and Chinese nationality, the local authorities may treat you as a Chinese citizen, even if you enter Hong Kong on a full “British citizen” passport or hold a British National (Overseas) passport. If this is the case, the British Consulate-General may not be able to offer you consular help.

If you have formally renounced Chinese citizenship, carry evidence that you have done so.

See guidance on [nationality in China](#).

## Typhoons

Typhoon season runs from April to October in Hong Kong and may cause flooding and landslides. Follow any local warnings issued in advance. Public offices and public transport will shut down when there is a ‘Typhoon 8’ storm signal.

Monitor local news and check the [World Meteorological Organization](#) and [Hong Kong Observatory](#).

## Before you travel

No travel can be guaranteed safe. Read all the advice in this guide. You may also find it helpful to:

- see [general advice for women travellers](#)
- read our [guide on disability and travel abroad](#)
- see [general advice for LGBT+ travellers](#)
- read about [safety for solo and independent travel](#)

- see [advice on volunteering and adventure travel abroad](#)

## Travel insurance

If you choose to travel, research your destinations and [get appropriate travel insurance](#). Insurance should cover your itinerary, planned activities and expenses in an emergency.

## About FCDO travel advice

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) provides advice about risks of travel to help you make informed decisions. Find out [more about FCDO travel advice](#).

## Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow FCDO:

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)
- [Travel Aware on Instagram](#)

## Entry requirements

This information is for people travelling on a full [‘British citizen’ passport](#) from the UK. It is based on the UK government’s understanding of Hong Kong’s current rules for the most common types of travel.

The authorities in Hong Kong set and enforce entry rules. If you’re not sure how these requirements apply to you, contact [Hong Kong’s Economic and Trade Office in the UK](#).

## Passport validity requirements

Your passport must be valid for at least one month after the date you plan to leave Hong Kong.

Check with your travel provider that your passport and other travel documents meet requirements. [Renew your passport](#) if you need to.

You will be denied entry if you do not have a valid travel document or try to use a passport that has been reported lost or stolen.

## Dual nationals

When returning to the UK, British citizens must carry a valid [British passport](#) or [certificate of entitlement](#). See [Dual citizenship](#).

Other types of [British nationals who are exempt from ETA](#) must also carry a valid British passport when entering the UK.

## Visa requirements

Hong Kong is part of the People's Republic of China, but it is a Special Administrative Region (SAR) with its own immigration controls.

You can visit Hong Kong for up to 6 months without a visa. For information on entry requirements see the [Hong Kong SAR government website](#).

To stay longer, to work or study, for business travel or for other reasons, you must get a visa. For further information contact the nearest [Chinese mission with visa issuing facilities](#) or the [Hong Kong Immigration Department](#).

## Vaccine requirements

To enter Hong Kong, you must have a certificate to prove you've had a yellow fever vaccination if you're coming from a [country listed as a transmission risk](#).

For full details about medical entry requirements and recommended vaccinations, see [TravelHealthPro's Hong Kong guide](#).

## Customs rules

There are strict rules about [goods you can take into or out of Hong Kong](#).

You must declare anything that may be prohibited or subject to tax or duty. Children aged 3 and over must follow the same rules as adult travellers unless otherwise stated.

## Bringing restricted items into Hong Kong

It's illegal for visitors arriving in Hong Kong International Airport to carry items including:

- stun guns
- objects with sharp points or edges (for example, samurai swords)
- martial arts equipment (for example, knuckledusters)

You could be fined or given a prison sentence. See further information from the [Hong Kong Police Force](#).

## E-cigarettes

It's illegal to bring e-cigarettes or other smoking products, such as heated tobacco products and herbal cigarettes, into Hong Kong. If you are travelling through Hong Kong and do not pass immigration control, you're exempt.

## Powdered baby formula

There are restrictions on the amount of powdered baby formula you can take out of Hong Kong. If you do not follow the rules, you could face a fine or imprisonment for up to 2 years.

See more information, including exemptions, from the [Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department](#).

## Safety and security

### Terrorism

There is a high threat of terrorist attack globally affecting UK interests and British nationals, including from groups and individuals who view the UK and British nationals as targets. Stay aware of your surroundings at all times.

UK Counter Terrorism Policing has information and advice on [staying safe abroad](#) and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack. Find out [how to reduce your risk from terrorism while abroad](#).

### Terrorism in Hong Kong

Terrorist attacks in Hong Kong cannot be ruled out.

## Political situation

### Protests and civil unrest

Between 2019 and 2020, large-scale political demonstrations took place in Hong Kong, including popular tourist areas. There were some violent clashes between police and protesters.

Protests are rare but could take place at any time. If you are near a demonstration, follow the advice of local authorities and move away to a safe place.

## Crime

### Protecting yourself and your belongings

Violent crime is low but pickpocketing and other street crime can happen. Take extra care of passports, credit cards and money in crowded areas and when checking in and out of hotels.

If you plan to hike in Hong Kong's country parks, stay on the marked trails and do not carry valuables.

### Drink spiking and sexual assault

Personal attacks, including sexual assaults, are rare but do happen, including by drink spiking. Do not leave drinks unattended and do not accept drinks from strangers. Women travelling alone, or with other females, could be at greater risk. See [advice for women travelling abroad](#).

## Laws and cultural differences

### National security laws

The [2020 National Security Law \(NSL\)](#) includes offences such as:

- secession
- subversion
- organisation and perpetration of terrorist activities
- collusion with a foreign country

The [2024 Safeguarding National Security Ordinance](#) includes offences such as:

- treason
- sedition
- unlawful disclosure of state secrets
- external interference endangering national security

National security laws can be interpreted broadly and some offences can lead to a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Individuals and organisations can be prosecuted.

The national security laws apply to activities taking place inside and outside Hong Kong, including in the UK. The national security laws apply to all individuals regardless of nationality or residency.

Hong Kong's National Security Police have issued arrest warrants and financial rewards against individuals living outside Hong Kong, including in the UK under the 2020 National Security Law.

You could be detained or removed to mainland China for some offences under the 2020 National Security Law.

## **Criticising the government**

Some people have been prosecuted for publishing or supporting statements that are critical of the Hong Kong or Chinese authorities, including online. You could also be prosecuted for supporting individuals who are considered to be breaking national security laws.

## **Immigration Ordinance**

The Immigration (Amendment) Ordinance came into force in 2021. Under this law, people could be stopped from leaving the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR). However, the Hong Kong SAR government has said these powers will only be used to stop certain asylum seekers from entering Hong Kong.

## **Public offences**

You can get on-the-spot fines for littering, jay walking or spitting.

## **Wildlife, animal products and souvenirs**

It is illegal to import and re-export elephant ivory and its products, including tourist souvenirs. You could get a fine or prison sentence.

## Illegal drugs

Illegal drugs, including cannabis and cannabidiol (CBD), carry severe penalties.

You should expect a long jail sentence and heavy fines for possessing, using or smuggling illegal drugs, including cannabis, when transiting through the airport.

Airports in Hong Kong have excellent technology and security for detecting illegal items. This is also used to scan the baggage of transiting passengers.

## Taking photographs in secure areas

Do not take photographs of military installations.

## Transport risks

### Road travel

If you are visiting, you can drive in Hong Kong with a valid UK driving licence for up to 12 months.

If you are living in Hong Kong, see the [Hong Kong SAR Transport Department](#) for information on applying for a full or temporary driving licence.

Hire car companies often have stricter requirements for their customers, such as a year of driving experience, a higher minimum age and holding an international driving permit. Check requirements with the car hire company before you travel.

## Extreme weather and natural disasters

Find out what you can do to [prepare for and respond to extreme weather and natural hazards](#).

### Typhoons

Typhoon season runs from April to October in Hong Kong and may cause flooding and landslides. Follow any local warnings issued in advance. Public offices and public transport will shut down when there is a 'Typhoon 8' storm signal.

Monitor local news and check the [World Meteorological Organization](#) and [Hong Kong Observatory](#).

## Health

Before you travel check that:

- your destination can provide the healthcare you may need
- you have [appropriate travel insurance](#) for local treatment or unexpected medical evacuation

This is particularly important if you have a health condition or are pregnant.

## Emergency medical number

Call 999 and ask for an ambulance.

Contact your insurance company quickly if you're referred to a medical facility for treatment.

## Vaccine recommendations and health risks

At least 8 weeks before your trip:

- check the latest [vaccine recommendations for Hong Kong](#)
- see where to get vaccines and whether you have to pay on the [NHS travel vaccinations page](#)

See [what health risks you'll face in Hong Kong](#).

## Medication

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or bought in the UK can be different in other countries.

Read [best practice when travelling with medicines on TravelHealthPro](#).

## Healthcare in Hong Kong

Medical treatment for uninsured foreign visitors to Hong Kong is expensive. You can only get prescribed medication through a doctor unless your UK prescription

specifically says the medication will be required in Hong Kong.

FCDO has a list of [medical providers in Hong Kong](#) where some staff will speak English.

There is also [guidance on healthcare if you're living in Hong Kong](#).

## Travel and mental health

Read [FCDO guidance on travel and mental health](#). There is also [mental health guidance on TravelHealthPro](#).

### Getting help

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) cannot provide tailored advice for individual trips. Read this travel advice and carry out your own research before deciding whether to travel.

## Emergency services in Hong Kong

Telephone: 999 (ambulance, fire, police)

## Contact your travel provider and insurer

Contact your travel provider and your insurer if you are involved in a serious incident or emergency abroad. They will tell you if they can help and what you need to do.

### Refunds and changes to travel

For refunds or changes to travel, contact your travel provider. You may also be able to make a claim through insurance. However, insurers usually require you to talk to your travel provider first.

Find out more about [changing or cancelling travel plans](#), including:

- where to get advice if you are in a dispute with a provider
- how to access previous versions of travel advice to support a claim

## Support from FCDO

FCDO has guidance on staying safe and what to do if you need help or support abroad, including:

- finding English-speaking [lawyers](#), [funeral directors](#) and [translators and interpreters](#) in Hong Kong
- dealing with a [death in Hong Kong](#)
- being [arrested or imprisoned in Hong Kong](#)
- getting help if you're a [victim of crime](#)
- what to do if you're [in hospital](#)
- if you're [affected by a crisis](#), such as a terrorist attack

## Contacting FCDO

### Help abroad

See [how to get help from the UK government abroad](#) including in an emergency.

### Help in the UK

You can call FCDO in London if you need urgent help because something has happened to a friend or relative abroad.

Telephone: 020 7008 5000 (24 hours)

[Find out about call charges](#)

## Get travel advice updates

Sign up to [get email notifications](#) when this travel advice is updated.

Follow FCDO:

- [travel advice on X](#)
- [travel advice on Facebook](#)

## Risk information for British companies

The Overseas Business Risk guidance offers [information and advice for British companies operating in Hong Kong](#) on how to manage political, economic, and business security-related risks.

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## PACK SMART

Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Carry a duplicate wallet with small denomination notes and old cards that you could relinquish if threatened by robbers. Only pack items you can replace, leave valuables at home. You will be less likely to attract criminals and if threatened, you won't be tempted to put up a fight to save your belongings.



Always check the destination restrictions regarding medications when planning your trip.

### STAY SAFE: Hotels



Request a hotel room between the third & seventh floor. Ground floor rooms should always be avoided as they are easily accessible from the outside. Higher levels mean in the event of a fire there are many stairs to navigate and in some countries firefighters may not have ladders capable of reaching higher than the seventh floor.



Check your room phone works in case you need to call reception for help.



Know where your fire exits are. Count the number of doors to the fire exit from your room so you can feel your way in the event of a fire and a smoke-filled corridor.



To prevent unauthorised entry into your hotel room, make sure the windows and doors lock. Bolt the deadbolt and use the door wedges you've brought with you from home to wedge the main door closed.

### **TRAVEL SAFE: Out & About**



When you are out and about, be aware of your surroundings - don't display obvious wealth, such as expensive jewellery, watches and mobile phones.



Use ATMs inside banks and shopping centres, where there is greater security and CCTV. Safety in numbers. If you are travelling with colleagues, stay together for meals and trips out. If you are alone, avoid quiet areas and trust your instincts.

### **Road traffic accidents are still the greatest threat to travel safety.**



- Use licensed taxis.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- Keep doors locked & windows up.
- Avoid night-time driving.
- If the driver is using a phone or driving dangerously, insist they slow down/stop using their phone.

Check in regularly. Use the 'Check In' button on the Solace Secure app so your location can be monitored and you can view all intelligence

alerts within your vicinity.

### **SAFE TRAVEL:** Health Tips

See a medical travel specialist at least 4 weeks before travel.

Ask about recommended vaccines for specific destinations.

First aid kit with regular & special medication for trip - carry in hand luggage.

Evacuation & travel insurance to cover health emergencies while abroad.



Take an extra month of prescribed medication for pre-existing conditions.

Risk of malaria - take precautions to prevent mosquito bites and take malaria pills as advised.



Avoid drinking alcohol and becoming dehydrated.

Verify & consume safe water and food. Have a supply of medicine for self-treatment of diarrhoea.



Excessive sun exposure should be minimised by the use of sunscreen - sun can be more intense over water, snow and at altitude.

Leave animals alone. Animal bites or scratches can transmit rabies.

### **THINK SAFE:** Know Your Destination

Understand the culture of your destination. Dress and behave so as not to cause offence or draw attention.



Know if the tap water is suitable to drink if not; only accept water from a sealed bottle.

Avoid ice in your drinks & salad washed in tap water.

Research where you are travelling to. Make a note of the local emergency services number. Know the current security and medical threats and advice. See the FCO website for general information ([gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)).

### **DOCUMENT SAFE:** Know Your Destination

Take photos/scans of your essential documents and email them to yourself. You can then access them remotely if your belongings are stolen:

- Passport
- Driver's Licence
- Travel Insurance Document
- Visa
- Medical Certificates

For 24/7 travel risk advice and emergency assistance contact Solace Global Risk operations: + 44 (0)1202 795 801

The Solace Secure desktop and app provide up-to-the-minute alerts, providing latest information on your travel location even when you are there.

CONTACT SOLACE GLOBAL RESPONSE TEAM

This report has been prepared for you by Solace Global Risk Ltd.

If you need urgent help, advice or assistance at any time please contact the 24/7 Response and Assistance Team.

If you have a question about this travel advice or any other location please email [SGR@solaceglobal.com](mailto:SGR@solaceglobal.com) for further safety and security information.

For support using your Solace Secure platform or app please contact [support@solaceglobal.com](mailto:support@solaceglobal.com).

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