



Tour Name

Lonely Planet Experiences Private Hong Kong Tour: Around Kowloon in 8 Markets

Tour City

Hong Kong

Tour Snapshot

Before online shopping, megamalls, supermarkets, and eBay, retail trade was solely done at markets. Join this private Hong Kong tour to get the lowdown on all the city's glorious market action, from gorgeous ferns at the Flower Market, and bargain clothing and handbags at the Ladies' Market to the latest model gadgets and sportswear in Mong Kok. You can't visit the city without experiencing its extensive and thrilling shopping scene!

Experience the best travel stories for yourself. Join a local expert and uncover hidden gems on this city adventure hand-picked by the world's leading travel publisher. Lonely Planet Experiences powered by Urban Adventures bring stories to life in the best-loved cities around the globe.

Highlights

- Wind your way through one of the world's most densely populated neighbourhoods as you explore Hong Kong's bustling markets with a local by your side

- Stop to smell the sweet aromas from the flower market stalls
- Shop for bargains at the city's favourite street market
- Discover how a shopping mall has totally transformed vibrant Kowloon
- Learn to shop for electronics, sneakers, jewelries and computers like the locals do and maybe pick up some bargains too!
- Each Lonely Planet Experience comes with six-months free access to Lonely Planet's Guides App which includes over 8,000 destinations guides and unbeatable discounts to Lonely Planet Guidebooks

Local Impact: How you will help the local community by joining this tour:

- During the tour you visit a local street market where vendors get to operate their businesses without having to pay the city's otherwise exorbitant rent. After the Second World War and the Chinese Civil War in the 50s and 60s, Hong Kong was full of the poor and many refugees. To make a living, many families relied on illegally hawking goods on roads meant for cars. At the beginning of the 70s when Hong Kong went from a developing to a developed economy, the government at the time introduced a licensing system that would phase out these street markets by two generations. In fact, the number of licensed street vendors have shrunk from tens of thousands in the early 70s to thousands today, and there is a market disappearing every few years. One market you visit on the tour is widely considered by locals as the best in the city, and your visit will help it continue to thrive.

Inclusions: Local English speaking guide

Exclusions: Items of personal nature, tips/gratuities for your guide

Schedule details

- Duration:3 hours
- Meeting point:
Prince Edward MTR station Exit A (Intersection of Nathan Road and Playing Field Road).

- Find the exact meeting point with what3words: [///hubcaps.curl.snooping](https://www.what3words.com/?q=///hubcaps.curl.snooping)

- Starting time: 2.00 PM
- Ending point:
Mong Kok MTR station

Full Itinerary

Hong Kong is packed full of fascinating markets, and you'll discover the best of them on this private Kowloon market tour, as we get up close and personal with where Hong Kong locals have shopped for over 100 years, and continue to do so, despite the development rising up around them.

We kick this Hong Kong markets tour off on a fragrant note at the Flower Market, a vibrant and colourful street market consisting of more than 50 shops. A jungle of exotic blossoms, luck-bringing houseplants, and sweet scents, it's the perfect introduction to the markets in Kowloon.

Next, it's onto the nearby Bird Garden, a charming Chinese-style garden with songbird selling stalls, traditional Chinese courtyards, and a 'bird park', where the city's elderly gentlemen like to bring their birds to socialize with one another. Soak up the peaceful surroundings and listen to the charming sound of thousands of birds - it's easy to forget about the crazy city streets that lie just outside the moon gates!

As we travel along this private Hong Kong city tour, we'll continue to help you orient yourself, understanding whereabouts in the city you are, where Kowloon ends and the New Territories begin, and how we get to mainland China from here. We'll also point out a mountain that is a true Hong Kong landmark and local symbol, to ensure you're thinking just like a local.

You will also see the largest remaining cluster of Tong Lau buildings in the city; Cantonese tenement architecture imbued with Western design features designed for both commercial and residential use. It's clever design makes it nice and easy for citizens to navigate the city come rain or shine. Unfortunately, nearly all of the city's Tong Laus have been torn down. Your guide will share with you why this one got to stay and where its future lies.

Our next stop will be at the famed Goldfish Street, where you will learn why fish are the most popular pets in the city, admire exotic fish and tortoises and appreciate the beauty of some very impressive works of aqua-scaping, the latest big thing amongst local hobbyists.

At the city's most popular market, it's time to practice your bargaining skills with vendors who sell bargain-priced clothes, bags, shoes, accessories and smartphone cases. If you're not up for bargaining, it's still loads of fun to experience the atmosphere of the market. It's set deep within the neighbourhood of Mong Kok, one of the world's most densely populated neighbourhoods; 130,000 people per square kilometre! Take a minute to digest that before we head over to an impressive commercial development that comprises a 15 storey high shopping mall, a gigantic skyscraper of an office tower and a posh hotel. It was what inner Kowloon needed, and since it opened its doors over a decade ago, the city's centre of gravity has been pulled much closer to 'Kowloon-side,' away from the Skyscraper chic of Hong Kong Island.

Last but certainly not least, we will be heading to street markets that specialize in one category of products. Whether it's sneakers, cameras, jewellery or computers, you will learn from your guide how to avoid the tourist traps and find the originals at an affordable price. And by this point if you are feeling a bit 'shopped out', a street full of bars selling anything from European wine to local craft beer is just a stone's throw away, waiting for you.

This is a private market tour that shows you the real local culture of Hong Kong and the fascinatingly diverse markets of Kowloon, and we're sure you'll leave with a head full of excitement and perhaps even a few unique souvenirs and treasures of your own!

Additional information

Inclusions: Local English speaking guide

Exclusions: Items of personal nature, tips/gratuities for your guide

Dress standard: Comfortable shoes.

Confirmation of booking: If you have your voucher, your booking is confirmed. We'll see you at the start point. Get in touch if you have any concerns or require more information via the email address or phone number (business hours only) on your voucher.

Additional Information: When warning signal on typhoon, rainstorm or thunderstorm is being hoisted by the Hong Kong Observatory, please contact Hong Kong Urban Adventures to discuss arrangements.

Child Policy: This is a child-friendly tour. This is a child-friendly tour. Children under the age of 6 are not permitted to join this tour. Children over the age of 6 will be charged the adult price. Children over the age of 6 will be charged the adult price.

Local contact

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