



## Chapter 5: Getting Around Hong Kong

### The Road Crossing Code

It is safer to cross the road using footbridges, subways, “Zebra” crossings or “Green man” crossings. If you cannot find any such crossing facilities nearby, there are some basic steps for crossing roads that you need to observe:

1. Find a safe place where you can see clearly along the roads in all directions for any approaching traffic.
2. When checking traffic, stop a little way back from the kerb where you will be away from traffic.
3. Look all around for traffic and listen. However, be aware that electric/hybrid vehicles, including motorcycles, may operate very quietly. You need to look out for them in addition to listening. If traffic is coming, let it pass. Look all around and listen again.
4. Let the drivers know your intention to cross but do not expect a driver to slow down for you.
5. Do not cross unless you are certain there is plenty of time. Walk straight across the road when there is no traffic near.
6. Allow more time to cross the road if you cannot see or hear clearly due to poor visibility, noise, or bad weather.
7. Keep looking and listening for vehicles that come into sight or come near while you cross.
8. Do not carry out any other activities, such as eating, drinking, playing mobile games, using mobile phones, listening to any audio devices, or talking while crossing the road. Give all your attention to the traffic.

### Using crossing facilities

Crossing aids are often provided to help you cross busy roads.

**Footbridges and subways:** Footbridges, subways and elevated walkways are the safest places to cross busy roads as they keep pedestrians well away from the dangers of traffic.

**“Zebra” crossings:** “Zebra” crossings are marked with alternate black and white stripes on the roads and zigzag lines on both sides. A yellow beacon, usually flashing, marks the location of the crossing. Always give drivers plenty of time to see you, slow down and stop before you start to cross. If necessary, put a small step on the crossing to indicate to drivers that you wish to cross the road. The traffic does not have to stop for you until you have stepped onto a “Zebra” crossing.

**“Green man” crossings:** When you arrive at the “Green man” crossing, stand on the pavement near the kerb. At some crossings, you will find a pedestrian push button; touch or press the button and wait (some “Green man” crossings will give a green signal to pedestrians only when the push button is touched or pressed). When the steady “Green man” light shows, you may cross with care. Do not cross diagonally over a junction unless there is a pedestrian crossing for so doing. You must not start to cross if the pedestrian light shows a flashing “Green man”. If the “Green man” starts flashing while you are crossing, continue to cross the road at a steady pace. Never cross or start to cross if the pedestrian light shows a “Red man”. If traffic lights are not working, treat the crossing as an ordinary cautionary crossing. Watch the traffic and follow the Road Crossing Code to cross the road with extreme caution.

If there is an island in the middle of the crossing, stop on it and follow the Road Crossing Code and the above rules and advice again.

Do not cross the road within the zigzag lines of the “Zebra” crossings or within 15 metres on either side of the “Green man” crossings, footbridges and subways.

## Cycling safety

A cycle is regarded as a vehicle, which means cyclists have the same obligation to follow the rules and regulations applicable to drivers when cycling. Please note the following safety tips when you ride on the roads:

### Do’s

1. Make sure the brakes are suitably adjusted and kept in proper working order, and can stop the wheels effectively.
2. Check the condition of the cycle and wear safety helmets and personal protective equipment (such as pads and gloves) before setting off.
3. Make sure the warning bell and the rear red reflector are installed on the cycle.

4. Obey traffic light signals, traffic signs, road markings and traffic rules that apply generally to vehicles.
5. Wear bright, light-coloured, fluorescent or reflective clothing/belt.
6. Turn on the front white lamp and the rear red lamp during times of darkness or low visibility.
7. Always use a cycleway if it is available.
8. Always ride in single file except when overtaking or making a right turn.
9. Ride along the left side of the road and look out for potholes, drains, road expansion joints, covers and tracks, etc.
10. Keep a safe distance from any vehicle that you are following.
11. Alight when crossing roads.

### **Don'ts**

1. Do not carry any passenger or lead any animal.
2. Do not carry any goods or animal which may obstruct your vision or upset your balance.
3. Do not let go of the handlebars or the pedals when riding.
4. Do not hold onto other vehicles or drag any objects.
5. Children aged under eleven are not allowed to ride a cycle on the road without adult supervision.
6. Do not ride on pavements.
7. Do not drift from side to side or zig-zag through traffic.
8. Do not ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
9. Do not use a mobile phone or wear earphones of any audio devices while cycling.

For more cycling safety information, please visit the Transport Department's website of Cycling Information Centre at [www.td.gov.hk/mini\\_site/cic/en](http://www.td.gov.hk/mini_site/cic/en).

## **Safe motoring**

Please note the following rules and advice whenever you are driving:

### **Do's**

1. Drive attentively.
2. Wear a seat belt if fitted.
3. Always leave at least a two-second time gap between you and the vehicle in front.
4. Pay particular attention to the vehicle's blind spots.
5. Obey traffic regulations and maintain lane discipline.

6. Be prepared to handle what to do after a traffic accident or an emergency.

### **Don'ts**

1. No drink driving or drug driving.
2. Do not drive when feeling fatigued or tired.
3. Do not drive too close to the vehicle in front.
4. Do not use a hand-held mobile phone while driving.

For more safe motoring information, please visit the Transport Department's website of Safe Motoring Guides at [www.td.gov.hk/en/road\\_safety/safe\\_motoring\\_guides/index.html](http://www.td.gov.hk/en/road_safety/safe_motoring_guides/index.html).

### **MTR**

The MTR Corporation Limited operates an integrated railway network in the urban areas, New Territories and Lantau Island as well as an express connection to Hong Kong International Airport. It also operates the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) to and from various cities in Mainland China.

The network covers Kwun Tong Line, Tsuen Wan Line, Island Line, South Island Line, Tseung Kwan O Line, Tung Chung Line, Disneyland Resort Line, East Rail Line and Tuen Ma Line. Trains run from 5:28 am to 1:29 am daily. In addition, the MTR system covers the Airport Express as well as the Light Rail. The former provides service from 5:50 am to 1:15 am daily, while the latter operates from 5:11 am to 1:38 am daily.

The Airport Express whisks incoming and departing passengers between the Airport's passenger terminal and Hong Kong Station in the heart of Central, passing through Tsing Yi and Kowloon Stations. The service was extended to the AsiaWorld-Expo Station in late 2005 to serve the international exhibition centre at the Airport.

The Light Rail network links up new towns in Northwest New Territories, namely Tuen Mun, Tin Shui Wai and Yuen Long. It connects with the Tuen Ma Line which reaches Ma On Shan.

The MTR also provides two types of cross-boundary train services. The Lo Wu and Lok Ma Chau Stations, which are connected by the East Rail Line, allow travellers to reach Shenzhen control points. The XRL trains run between Hong

Kong West Kowloon Station and 73 Mainland destinations, including 10 short-haul destinations and 63 long-haul destinations, which connect Hong Kong to the national high-speed rail network and reduce the rail journey time between Hong Kong and various major Mainland cities substantially.

Enquiries: **2881-8888**

***Advice:***

A highly convenient type of ticket is called the “Octopus”, which is a stored-value card for multiple trips on the MTR, all franchised bus routes and all franchised and licensed ferry routes. When the stored value runs out, you can reload your card at an Add-value Machine / Customer Service Centre at any railway station or retailers including designated convenience stores. The Octopus Enquiry Processor can be used to check the remaining value of your Octopus. The MTR heavy rail network (except the Airport Express) also accepts payments of fares via e-payment platforms by scanning QR codes. For Light Rail, please note that once you have validated a single ride ticket or your Octopus card, you can board the train directly without going through a gate or turnstile. However, this “honour” fare system is enforced by occasional spot checks conducted by the MTR staff.

***Note:***

The route map of MTR is shown at the back of this Guidebook.

### **Franchised bus services**

Four companies operate franchised bus services in Hong Kong. They are the Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited (KMB), Citybus Limited (which has two franchises), New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited (NLB) and Long Win Bus Company Limited. Most bus services run from about 6:00 am until midnight, with some running all night.

***Advice:***

You don't need to buy a ticket to travel by bus. Just drop the exact fare into the farebox next to the driver when you get on board. Easier still, all the above buses accept payment by an Octopus card. Also, regular bus routes accept other e-payment methods, such as contactless cards and QR code scanning. Wear the seat belt if the seat is fitted with one. Do not obstruct or distract the driver. Hold the handrail tightly when standing on the lower deck or moving in the bus compartment and travelling up/down the staircase. When you want to get off, press the stop button.

Enquiries:	Citybus	<b>2136-8888</b>
	KMB	<b>2745-4466</b>
	Long Win	<b>2261-2791</b>
	NLB	<b>2984-9848</b>

## **Minibuses**

There are two types of minibus in Hong Kong. Both are yellow but some have red roofs (red minibuses) and others have green roofs (green minibuses). Green minibuses provide scheduled services with fixed routes, fares, vehicle allocation and timetables while red minibuses operate without fixed routes, fares and timetables. The maximum seating capacity of minibus has increased from 16 seats to 19 seats since 7 July 2017.

Fares are paid on a green minibus when you get on board. All green minibuses accept payment by Octopus cards, while some also accept payment by AlipayHK. Some red minibuses accept payment by Octopus cards. For those red minibuses that only accept cash, you usually pay when you get off. Make sure you have the exact fare in case the driver runs out of change. Wear a seat belt if the seat is fitted with one.

### ***Advice:***

To halt either a green or a red minibus so you can alight, do it like a local and say “yau lok” which means “please stop” in Cantonese. Some green or red minibuses have installed passenger call-bell, which allows passengers to signal to the driver to stop the vehicle so that they can alight. If you want to commend a minibus driver/you are not satisfied with the service, get the date, time, and the location of incident as well as the vehicle registration number and call the Transport Complaint Unit hotline at **2889-9999** or 1823.

## **Trams**

Double-decker tramcars operate along the northern shore of Hong Kong Island. The longest route starts from Kennedy Town and runs all the way to Shau Kei Wan. There are six major routes: between Shau Kei Wan and Happy Valley; North Point and Whitty Street (Shek Tong Tsui); Causeway Bay and Whitty Street (Shek Tong Tsui); Happy Valley and Kennedy Town; Shau Kei Wan and Western Market; and Shau Kei Wan and Kennedy Town.

Single-journey fare for a person aged 12 or above is \$3 while \$1.5 is charged for children aged 3 or above and under 12, and \$1.3 is charged for senior citizens aged 65 or above. No change is available on board and passengers can pay the fares with an Octopus card, in cash or via electronic payment methods, such as contactless cards and QR code scanning. Depending on the routes of service, tram service is generally operated from about 6:00 am to midnight daily.

Enquiries: **2548-7102**

## **Ferries**

The Star Ferry operates between Tsim Sha Tsui and Central from 6:30 am to 11:30 pm daily and between Tsim Sha Tsui and Wan Chai from 7:20 am to 11:00 pm from Mondays to Saturdays (except public holidays) and from 7:30 am to 11:00 pm on Sundays and public holidays. To take the Tsim Sha Tsui and Central or Tsim Sha Tsui and Wan Chai ferry services, simply buy a ticket from the ticketing kiosk, a fare token from a vending machine or use other payment means such as Octopus card, AlipayHK, WeChat Pay and Visa/Mastercard. There are different fares for Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, as well as for the upper and lower decks.

The Fortune Ferry provides service between Central and Hung Hom from 7:30 am to 7:20 pm from Mondays to Saturdays (except public holidays) and from 8:10 am to 6:20 pm on Sundays and public holidays.

The Sun Ferry Services Company Limited (Sun Ferry) provides services to Lantau Island (Mui Wo) and Cheung Chau, while Hong Kong and Kowloon Ferry Limited (HKK) serves Peng Chau and Lamma Island. These outlying island ferry services depart from the piers in Central. Fares vary according to your destination and vessel type, and different fares will be charged on Sundays and public holidays.

The Discovery Bay Transportation Services Limited (DBTPL) provides services to Discovery Bay on Lantau Island, departing from Central Pier No. 3. There are special departures serving Discovery Bay North on Sundays and public holidays.

The Park Island Transport Company Limited (PITCL) provides services to Ma Wan, departing from Central Pier No. 2 and Tsuen Wan Public Pier.

All these services accept payment by cash or Octopus cards. Sun Ferry and HKK accept payment by AlipayHK and UnionPay while the “Central - Hung Hom” route operated by the Fortune Ferry accept payment by AlipayHK.

Enquiries:	Star Ferry	<b>2367-7065</b>
	Fortune Ferry	<b>5801-2200</b>
	Sun Ferry	<b>2131-8181</b>
	HKK	<b>2815-6063</b>
	DBTPL	<b>2987-7351</b>
	PITCL	<b>2946-8888</b>

## **Taxis**

Urban taxis (red) operate in most areas in Hong Kong (except Tung Chung Road and roads in south Lantau). New Territories taxis (green) mainly operate in the north-eastern part (i.e. north of Sha Tin) and north-western part (i.e. north of Tsuen Wan) of the New Territories. Lantau taxis (blue) operate only on Lantau Island and Chek Lap Kok. All taxis are allowed to provide services at the Hong Kong International Airport, the Hong Kong Disneyland and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port. A written address in Chinese shown to a taxi driver is usually the best way to ensure effective communication.

When a taxi is available for hire, it should display a small red “For Hire” flag near the centre of the window screen. Also, at night, the “TAXI” sign on the roof should be lit up. Fares are charged according to the approved fare scales which are shown on the taximeter. A taxi fare table is also displayed on the door panel inside the taxi. Remember to wear a seat belt when you ride on a taxi.

### ***Advice:***

If you want to commend a taxi driver/you are not satisfied with the service, get the vehicle registration number or information on the taxi driver’s identity plate (e.g. taxi driver’s identity plate number) and call the Transport Complaint Unit hotline at **2889-9999** or **1823**. Please call Police at **2527 7177** if you suspect that a taxi driver does not charge taxi fare legally according to the taximeter. If you leave something valuable in a taxi, contact the police or call the Road Cop Lost & Found Free Hotline for Lost Property on Taxi at **187-2920**.