

BLUELIST¹ (blu,list) *v.*
to recommend a travel experience.

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SHOPPING

top picks

- **Alan Chan Creations** (p168)
Stylish souvenirs from the man who has designed almost everything in Hong Kong.
- **Beatniks** (p166)
Cool vintage streetwear.
- **Chine Gallery** (p157)
Top-of-the-crop antique furniture and rugs.
- **Chinese Arts & Crafts** (p164)
The best place in town for quality Chinese bric-a-brac.
- **Curio Alley** (p168)
The strip for low-cost trinkets and mementos.
- **Joyce** (p159)
A tight selection of the best local and international high fashion in one store.
- **Lulu Cheung** (p160)
Locally designed, sophisticated, understated style.
- **Shanghai Tang** (p160)
Retro Chinese style for him and her. The accessories and other knick-knacks make perfect presents.
- **Wattis Fine Art** (p158)
The best place in Hong Kong for antique maps, prints and photographs.

Hong Kong has long since lost its reputation as a bargain hunter's paradise. While you can still find some bargains, these days you can get pretty much anything that's on sale here a notch cheaper just over the border in China.

Hong Kong trades on its reputation as a place of neon-lit retail pilgrimage, the home of giant temples to consumption where shopping is practically a religion. The city is positively stuffed with glitzy shopping malls towering above the streets.

Any international brand worthy of its logo has at least one outlet here, and there are also a few local brands worth spending your money on. Clothing (off the peg or tailored), shoes, jewellery, luggage and, to a lesser degree nowadays, cameras and electronic goods are the city's strong suits. Excellent art and antiques shops also abound.

Shopping is made very easy here. Opening hours are long and the government has so far resisted introducing a sales tax, so the marked price is the price you'll pay. Credit cards are widely accepted, except in markets, but it's rare for traders to accept travellers cheques or foreign currency as payment. Sales assistants in department or chain stores rarely have any leeway to give discounts, but you can try bargaining in owner-operated stores and certainly in markets.

Hong Kong may be made for shopping but it has to be said that after the first impressions of endless shopping possibilities fade, all this retail floor space starts blending into a rather homogenous whole. The same names do tend to crop up in the countless sleek but identikit malls dotted around the city.

You'll find disappointingly few made-in-Hong Kong, cutting-edge fashion lines or boutiques. Most of the designers with local connections either trained or made their names (and tend to concentrate their activities) overseas. In short, there's not much of a home-grown fashion scene, thanks to the size of the market and an innate conservatism among local shoppers.

The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) produces a handy 300-page book called *A Guide to Quality Shops and Restaurants*, which lists shops that are HKTB members. It is available for free at its information outlets (p301).

SHOPPING AREAS

The main shopping areas are Central and Causeway Bay on Hong Kong Island and Tsim Sha Tsui in Kowloon. Nathan Rd in Tsim Sha Tsui is the main tourist strip, and one of very few places where you'll find merchants poised to rip you off (see boxed text, p167), especially when buying electronic goods or photographic equipment. Central is good for clothing (usually midrange to top end), as well as books, cameras and antiques. Causeway Bay has a lot of department stores and low-end clothing outlets. For market shopping, see p156.

Warehouse sales and factory extras can be found along Granville Rd in Tsim Sha Tsui, in Causeway Bay and on Ap Lei Chau, the island opposite Aberdeen. Most of these deal in ready-to-wear garments, but there are a few that also sell carpets, shoes, leather goods, jewellery and imitation antiques. Often prices aren't that much less than in retail shops, and it's important to check purchases carefully, as refunds are rarely given and many articles are factory seconds and imperfect.

OPENING HOURS

In the Central and Western districts, daily shop hours are generally from 10am to 7.30pm, and in Causeway Bay and Wan Chai many will stay open until 9.30pm or 10pm. In Tsim Sha Tsui, Mong Kok and Yau Ma Tei, they close around 9pm, and in Tsim Sha Tsui East at 7.30pm. Some smaller shops close for major holidays – sometimes for up to a week – especially during Chinese New Year. Many also close on Sunday. We've included opening hours in reviews only where the hours differ dramatically from these standard times.

Winter sales are during the first three weeks in January; summer sales are in late June and early July.

BARGAINING

Bargaining is a way of life at retail outlets throughout Hong Kong, with the exception of department stores and clothing chain shops, where the prices marked are the prices paid. Some visitors operate on the theory that you can get the goods for half the price originally

quoted. Many Hong Kong residents believe that if you can bargain something down that low, then you shouldn't be buying from that shop anyway. If the business is that crooked – and many are, particularly in the Tsim Sha Tsui tourist ghetto – it will probably find other ways to cheat you (such as selling you electronic goods with missing components or no international warranty).

Price tags are supposed to be displayed on all goods. If you can't find a price tag, you've undoubtedly entered one of those business establishments with 'flexible' – ie rip-off – prices.

DUTY FREE

The only imported goods on which there is duty in Hong Kong are alcohol, tobacco, perfumes, cosmetics, cars and certain petroleum products. In general, almost anything – from cameras and electronics to clothing and jewellery – will be cheaper when you buy it outside duty-free shops.

WARRANTIES & GUARANTEES

Every guarantee should carry a complete description of the item (including the model and serial numbers), as well as the date of purchase, the name and address of the shop it was purchased from, and the shop's official name chop (stamp).

Many imported items come with a warranty registration with the words 'Guarantee only valid in Hong Kong'. If it's a well-known brand, you can often return this card to the importer in Hong Kong to get a warranty card for your home country.

A common practice is to sell grey-market equipment (ie imported by somebody other than the official local agent). Such equipment may have no guarantee at all or the guarantee may only be valid in the country of manufacture (which will probably be either China or Japan).

REFUNDS & EXCHANGES

Most shops are loath to give refunds, but they can usually be persuaded to exchange purchases that haven't been soiled or tampered with. Make sure you get a detailed receipt that enumerates the goods, as well as the amount and payment method.

There is really no reason to put a deposit on anything unless it is an article of clothing being made for you or you've ordered a new

pair of glasses. Some shops might ask for a deposit if you're ordering an unusual item that's not normally stocked, but this isn't a common practice.

SHIPPING GOODS

Goods can be sent home by post, and some shops will package and post the goods for you, especially if it's a large item. It's a good idea to find out whether you will have to clear the goods at the country of destination. If the goods are fragile, it is sensible to buy 'all risks' insurance. Make sure you keep all the receipts.

Smaller items can be shipped from the post office. **United Parcel Service** (UPS; ☎ 2735 3535) also offers services from Hong Kong to some 40 countries worldwide. It ships by air and accepts parcels weighing up to 70kg. **DHL** (☎ 2400 3388) is another option.

WHAT TO BUY

Antiques

Hong Kong has a rich and colourful array of Asian, especially Chinese, antiques on offer, but serious buyers will restrict themselves to the reputable antique shops and auction houses only; Hong Kong imports many forgeries and expert reproductions from China and Southeast Asia. Just remember that most of the really good pieces are sold through the auction houses such as Christie's (p158), especially at its auctions in spring and autumn.

Most of Hong Kong Island's antique shops are bunched along Wyndham St and Hollywood Rd in Central and Sheung Wan. The shops at the western end of Hollywood Rd tend to be cheaper in price and carry more dubious 'antiques'. Some of them stock a range of old books and magazines, Chinese propaganda posters, badges from the Cultural Revolution and so on. It's easy to get lost in some of these dusty holes in the wall, but be cautious – tread carefully through this minefield of reproductions. When it comes to buying antiques and curios, there are relatively few places of interest in Kowloon.

For Chinese handicrafts and other goods (hand-carved wooden pieces, ceramics, paintings, cloisonné, silk garments), the main places to go are the large China-run emporiums scattered throughout the territory, such as Chinese Arts & Crafts (p164) and Yue Hwa Chinese Products Emporium (p169).

Carpets

While carpets are not a huge bargain in Hong Kong, it has a good selection of both new and antique silk and wool carpets. Imported carpets from Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Pakistan, Tibet and Turkey are widely available; some of the new Iranian ones with contemporary designs are stunning. The best carpets have a larger number of knots per square inch (over 550) and are richer in detail and colour than cheaper carpets. Older carpets are dyed with natural vegetable dye. Silk carpets are often hung on the wall rather than used on the floor. The bulk of Hong Kong's carpet and rug shops are clustered around Wyndham St in Central, although there are some large retailers located in Wan Chai as well.

Clothing

The best places to find designer fashions and top-end boutiques are in the big shopping centres and malls, especially Landmark (p162) in Central, Pacific Place (p164) in Admiralty and Festival Walk (p170) in Kowloon Tong. The best hunting grounds for warehouse sales and factory extras are generally in Tsim Sha Tsui at the eastern end of Granville Rd; check out Austin Ave and Chatham Rd South as well. On Hong Kong Island, Jardine's Bazaar in Causeway Bay has low-cost garments and there are several sample shops and places to pick up cheap jeans in Lee Garden Rd. The street markets (see boxed text, p156) in Temple St in Yau Ma Tei and Tung Choi St in

Mong Kok have the cheapest clothes. You may also try Li Yuen St East and Li Yuen St West, two narrow alleyways linking Des Voeux Rd Central with Queen's Rd Central. They are a jumble of inexpensive clothing, handbags, backpacks and costume jewellery.

For midpriced items, Causeway Bay and Tsim Sha Tsui, particularly east of Nathan Rd, are good hunting grounds.

Although many people still frequent Hong Kong's tailors, getting a suit or dress made is no longer a great bargain. Remember that you usually get what you pay for; the material is often good but the work may be shoddy. Most tailors will require a 50% nonrefundable deposit and the more fittings you have, the better the result.

Computers

Hong Kong is a popular place to buy personal computers and laptops. While prices are competitive, it is also important to pay careful attention to what you buy and where you buy it.

You may have your own ideas about what kind of computer you want to buy, but if you're just visiting Hong Kong you would be wise to choose a brand-name portable computer with an international warranty, such as Hewlett-Packard, Compaq or Acer.

Be careful: you may be hit with a steep import tax when you return to your home country. Save your receipt; the older the machine, the less you're likely to pay in import duty. The rules in many countries say that the machine is tax exempt if over a year old.

Most people buy their computers in Kowloon, where there are loads of centres selling computers and related equipment. There's a much greater choice and prices are lower, but 'caveat emptor' is the phrase to bear in mind as you browse. Hong Kong Island does have a couple of reasonable computer arcades – **Wind-sor House** (Map p74; 311 Gloucester Rd, Causeway Bay) and the **Wan Chai Computer Centre** (p163).

Electronics

Sham Shui Po in northwestern Kowloon is a good neighbourhood to search for electronic items. You can even buy and sell second-hand goods. If you take exit A2 from the MTR at Sham Shui Po station, you'll find yourself on Apliu St, one of the best places in Hong Kong to search for the numerous plug adaptors you'll need if you plan to use your purchase in Hong Kong, Macau and/or the mainland.

Mong Kok is another great neighbourhood in which to look for electronic gadgetry. Starting at Argyle St and heading south, explore all the side streets running parallel to Nathan Rd, such as Canton Rd, Tung Choi St, Sai Yeung Choi St, Portland St, Shanghai St and Reclamation St.

There are also quite a few electronics shops in Causeway Bay, their windows stuffed full of digital cameras, DVD and CD players, and iPods. Locals generally avoid these places – apparently many of these shops are under the same ownership, ensuring that the prices remain high throughout the area.

It's best to avoid the electronics shops in Tsim Sha Tsui, especially those along Nathan Rd or just off it, as many are skilled at fleecing foreign shoppers.

Gems & Jewellery

The Chinese attribute various magical qualities to jade, including the power to prevent ageing and accidents. The circular disc with a central hole worn around many Hong Kong necks represents heaven in Chinese mythology. If you're interested in looking at and possibly purchasing jade, head for the Jade Market (p98) in Yau Ma Tei. Unless you're fairly knowledgeable about jade though, it's probably wise to limit yourself to modest purchases.

Hong Kong carries a great range of pearls, and opals are said to be good value. Diamonds aren't generally a good deal, because the world trade is controlled by a cartel and Hong Kong does not have a diamond-cutting industry.

CLOTHING SIZES

Women's clothing

| | | | | | | |
|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Aus/UK | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 18 |
| Europe | 36 | 38 | 40 | 42 | 44 | 46 |
| Japan | 5 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 13 | 15 |
| USA | 6 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 |

Women's shoes

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Aus/USA | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Europe | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 |
| France only | 35 | 36 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| Japan | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| UK | 3½ | 4½ | 5½ | 6½ | 7½ | 8½ |

Men's clothing

| | | | | | | |
|--------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Aus | 92 | 96 | 100 | 104 | 108 | 112 |
| Europe | 46 | 48 | 50 | 52 | 54 | 56 |
| Japan | 5 | M | M | L | | |
| UK/USA | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 |

Men's shirts (collar sizes)

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|
| Aus/Japan | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 |
| Europe | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 |
| UK/USA | 15 | 15½ | 16 | 16½ | 17 | 17½ |

Men's shoes

| | | | | | | |
|--------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Aus/UK | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Europe | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44½ | 46 | 47 |
| Japan | 26 | 27 | 27½ | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| USA | 7½ | 8½ | 9½ | 10½ | 11½ | 12½ |

Measurements approximate only, try before you buy

Diamonds aside, jewellery exporting is big business in Hong Kong, where other gemstones are imported, cut, polished, set and re-exported using cheap labour. In theory, this should make Hong Kong a cheap place to purchase jewellery. In reality, retail prices are only marginally lower than elsewhere.

A couple of reputable jewellery-shop chains, including King Fook (p161) and Tse Sui Lun (p162), will issue a certificate that states exactly what you are buying and guarantees that the shop will buy it back at a fair market price. If you've bought something and want to know its value, you can have it appraised. There is a charge for this service, and some stones (such as diamonds) may have to be removed from their setting for testing. You can contact **Hong Kong Jewellers' & Goldsmiths' Association** (☎ 2543 9633) for a list of the approved appraisers. One company that does appraisals is **Valuation Services** (☎ 2869 4350).

The only carved ivory products being sold here *legally* are those that were manufactured

POST-RETAIL THERAPY

If your arms ache from carting around that ancient stone tomb guard you picked up on Hollywood Rd, or those impulse-purchase wrinkle pickers are starting to pinch, soothe your aches and pains with a massage or spa treatment.

Foot (Map p56; ☎ 2997 7138; www.foothk.com; 8th fl, Regent Centre, 88 Queen's Rd Central; MTR Central, exit D1) Foot reflexology and acupressure plus lymphatic detox and pedicures from \$220 for 50 minutes.

Elemis Day Spa (Map p68; ☎ 2521 6660; www.elemisdayspa.com.hk; 9th fl, Century Sq, 1 D'Aguiar St, Central; MTR Central, exit D2) Manages to feel luxurious and utterly soothing without absolutely breaking the bank. Treatments range from basic facials to deep-tissue massage. There are separate sections (and treatment menus) for men and women. Its very Central location is another plus.

Plateau Residential Spa (Map p65; ☎ 2584 7688; www.plateau.com.hk; 11th fl, Grand Hyatt Hong Kong, Wan Chai; MTR Wan Chai) When an afternoon of pampering just isn't enough, stay the night at the Plateau, the Hyatt's rather Zen spa. You can be treated in your room on your futon-style bed and then enjoy wonderful harbour views from your balcony.

The Spa at the Four Seasons (Map p56; ☎ 3196 8888; www.fourseasons.com; Four Seasons Hotel, 8 Finance St, Central; MTR Hong Kong) This vast, ultra high-end spa pretty much offers it all. As well as a full range of beauty, massage and health treatments, there's an ice fountain, hot cups, moxibustion and something called a herbal cocoon room.

TO MARKET, TO MARKET...

For budget shopping, there's no better place to start than at one of Hong Kong's busy covered markets and street markets.

The biggest one in the territory is the **Temple Street night market** (p96) in Yau Ma Tei, which basically runs parallel to (and west of) Nathan Rd from Jordan Rd in the south to Man Ming Lane in the north, and is divided by Tin Hau Temple. It is the place to go for cheap clothes, watches, pirated CDs and DVDs, fake labels, footwear, cookware and everyday items, as well as *dai-pai-dawng* (open-air street stall food). The best time to visit is between 7pm and 10pm.

The **Tung Choi Street market** (Map p98; ☎ noon-11.30pm), two blocks east of Nathan Rd and the Mong Kok MTR station, mainly sells cheap clothing. It is sometimes called the Ladies' Market to distinguish it from the Men's Market (the Temple St night market) because the stalls in the latter once sold only menswear. Though there are still a lot of items on sale for women on Tung Choi St, vendors don't discriminate and anyone's money will do nowadays. Vendors start setting up their stalls as early as noon, but it's best to get here between 1pm and 6pm when there's much more on offer.

There are other bustling markets on **Apliu St** (Map pp88-9; ☎ noon-9pm) in Sham Shui Po, one block west of Sham Shui Po MTR station, and in the streets running off Tai Po's **Four Lane Sq** (Map p121) in the New Territories.

If you're looking strictly for clothing, try **Jardine's Bazaar** (Map p74) in Causeway Bay. A bit more upmarket and a tourist attraction in its own right is **Stanley Market** (p84), in the village of that name on southern Hong Kong Island. Another market worth visiting is **Western Market** (p70) near the Macau ferry terminal in Sheung Wan.

before a 1989 ban came into effect or those made of marine ivory. Ivory retailers must have all sorts of documentation to prove where and when the goods were made.

Leather Goods & Luggage

Most of what gets sent to the Hong Kong market from China is export quality, but check carefully because there is still a lot of rubbish on sale. All the big brand names such as Louis Vuitton and Gucci are on display in Hong Kong department stores, and you'll find some local vendors in the luggage business. If you're just looking for a casual bag or daypack, try Li Yuen St East and Li Yuen St West in Central or Stanley Market (p84).

Photographic Equipment

When shopping for a camera, keep in mind that you should never buy one that doesn't have a price tag. This will basically preclude most of the shops in Tsim Sha Tsui. One of the best spots in Hong Kong for buying photographic equipment is Stanley St in Central, where competition is keen. Everything carries price tags, though some low-level bargaining may be possible. Tsim Sha Tsui has a couple of shops on Kimberley Rd dealing in used cameras and there are plenty of photo shops on Sai Yeung Choi St in Mong Kok.

Watches

Shops selling watches are ubiquitous in Hong Kong and you can find everything from a Rolex to Russian army timepieces and diving watches. As always, you should avoid the

shops that do not have price tags on the merchandise. The big department stores and City Chain (p162) are fine, but compare prices.

HONG KONG ISLAND

Central and Causeway Bay are the main shopping districts on Hong Kong Island, with Wan Chai lagging pretty far behind.

CENTRAL

Central has a mix of midrange to top-end shopping centres and street-front retail; it's popular with locals and tourists alike. This is a good place to look for cameras, books, antiques and designer threads. The Landmark shopping mall in Central has designer boutiques, shops selling crystal and so on. The IFC Mall is for high fashion.

AMOURS ANTIQUES

Map p68 Antiques; Clothing & Accessories
☎ 2803 7877; 45 Staunton St; ☎ 12.30-9.30pm Sun-Thu, 12.30-10.30pm Fri & Sat; ☎ 26

This wonderful shop stocks antique (well, old) rhinestone jewellery, frocks, and a darling clutch of beaded and tapestry bags dating from early last century. There are also vases, candle holders and Buddha figurines. Good gift-shopping territory.

ARCH ANGEL ANTIQUES Map p68 Antiques

☎ 2851 6848; 53-55 Hollywood Rd; ☎ 26

Though the specialities are antique and ancient porcelain and tombware, Arch Angel packs a lot more into its three floors:

there's everything from mahjong sets and terracotta horses to palatial furniture. It also operates an art gallery, **Arch Angel Fine Art** (Map p68; ☎ 2854 4255; 38 Peel St), across the road that deals in paintings by Vietnamese artists.

CHINE GALLERY Map p68 Antiques, Carpets

☎ 2543 0023; www.chinegallery.com; 42A Hollywood Rd; ☎ 26

The carefully restored furniture – the lacquered cabinets are fab – at this shop come from all over China, and hand-knotted rugs are sourced from remote regions such as Xinjiang, Ningxia, Gansu, Inner Mongolia and Tibet. It sells statues and collectibles, too.

HOBBS & BISHOPS FINE ART

Map p68 Antiques
☎ 2537 9838; 28 Hollywood Rd; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Mon-Sat; ☎ 26

This shop smelling of beeswax specialises in lacquered Chinese wooden furniture from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Its taste leans towards the sleek and handsome rather than gilded and showy pieces.

HONEYCHURCH ANTIQUES

Map p68 Antiques
☎ 2543 2433; 29 Hollywood Rd; ☎ closed Sun; ☎ 26

This fine shop, run by an American couple for more than four decades, specialises in antique Chinese furniture, jewellery and Chinese export, and antique English silver. There's a wide range of stock, from the early Chinese dynasties right up to the 20th century.

KARIN WEBER GALLERY

Map p68 Antiques; Fine Art
☎ 2544 5004; www.karinwebergallery.com; 20 Aberdeen St; ☎ 26

Karin Weber has an enjoyable mix of Chinese country antiques and contemporary Asian artworks. She also gives short lectures on antiques and the scene in Hong Kong, and is able to arrange antique-buying trips into Guangdong for serious buyers.

TAI SING FINE ANTIQUES

Map p68 Antiques
☎ 2525 9365; 12 Wyndham St; MTR Central

Tai Sing has been selling quality Chinese antiques for more than half a century, with a special focus on porcelain. Two of the shop's six floors are now devoted to Euro-

pean furniture, including a dandy assembly of Art Deco pieces.

TERESA COLEMAN FINE ARTS

Map p68 Antiques
☎ 2526 2450; Ground fl, 79 Wyndham St; ☎ 26

This is the finest shop in Hong Kong for purchasing antique Chinese textiles, including rare *chi fu*, the formal court robes of valuable silk worn by the Chinese emperor, princes and imperial ministers. The shop also deals in Chinese export paintings from the 18th and 19th centuries and antique fans.

TIBETAN GALLERY Map p68 Antiques

☎ 2530 4863; Shop A, Yu Yuet Lai Bldg, 43-55 Wyndham St; ☎ closed Sun; ☎ 26

This shop has an impressive selection of Tibetan religious art and artefacts, including mini-altars. You'll also find Tibetan furniture, silverware and rugs. There's a large showroom on the 1st floor.

top picks

SHOPPING IN HONG KONG

The Ladies' Market has plenty for all

This Mong Kok market place is awesome for bargain shopping. From Bruce Lee figurines to Mao lighters, all souvenirs and clothes are cheap. Beware, though, pushy sales people and dense crowds can make it too much for even the most dedicated shopper.

Festival Walk is a cause for celebration

Away from the street markets this huge shopping centre has 216 shops whose goods are limited only by your imagination. Relax by watching a movie in the multiplex or by skating on the indoor ice rink. Check out the futuristic, mirrored escalators.

Shop at Temple Street Night Market and see your future

Temple Street is host to Hong Kong's most famous open-air market. At dusk, this place really comes alive and you can spend hours here. Have your future told by a streetside fortune-teller or catch an impromptu Chinese opera street show or a bite to eat.

kikko01

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to recommend a travel experience.

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WATTIS FINE ART Map p68 Antiques
☎ 2524 5302; www.wattis.com.hk; 2nd fl, 20 Hollywood Rd; ☹ closed Mon; 🕒 26

No place in Hong Kong has a better collection of antique maps for sale than Wattis Fine Art. The selection of old photographs of Hong Kong and Macau is also very impressive. You enter the shop from Old Bailey St.

CHRISTIE'S Map p56 Auction House
☎ 2521 5396; Room 2203-2208, 22nd fl, Alexandra House, 16-20 Chater Rd; MTR Central (exit J2)
Christie's has regular sales in ceramics, jade, jewellery, stamps, snuff bottles, art, traditional and contemporary Chinese paintings and calligraphy. It holds its spring (May) and autumn (November) pre-auction previews in the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai (p64).

BLOOMSBURY BOOKS Map p56 Books
☎ 2526 5387; Shop 102, 1/F Hutchison House, 10 Harcourt Rd; ☹ closed Sun; MTR Central (exit J3)
The delightful bookshop carries a tremendous selection of business, legal and other professional titles but, in deference to its name, leans on the literary side as well. There's a brilliant children's section.

FLOW ORGANIC BOOKSHOP Map p68 Books
☎ 2964 9483, 8104 0822; www.flowagain.com; 1st & 2nd fls, 40 Lyndhurst Tce; ☹ noon-7pm; 🕒 26
Quite what makes this secondhand and exchange bookshop 'organic' is anyone's guess, but it does have a focus on spiritual and New Age literature. On the 2nd floor are Chinese-language books and relaxation tapes and CDs. Enter from Cochrane St.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS OFFICE Map p56 Books; Maps
☎ 2537 1910; Room 402, 4th fl, Murray Bldg, 22 Garden Rd; ☹ closed Sun; 🕒 3B, 12 or 40M
All Hong Kong government publications, including hiking maps, are available from here.

INDOSIAM Map p56 Books; Antiques
☎ 2854 2853; 1st fl, 89 Hollywood Rd; ☹ 2-7pm; 🕒 26
Hong Kong's first (and only) truly antiquarian bookshop deals in rare titles relating to Asian countries. It's particularly strong

on Thailand, China and the former French colonies (ie Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos).

JOINT PUBLISHING Map p56 Books
☎ 2868 6844; 9 Queen Victoria St; MTR Central (exit A)
This primarily Chinese-language bookshop has a good range of English-language books about China, and CDs and DVDs for studying the language. It's also strong on local and China maps. Most English-language titles are on the mezzanine floor. There are 15 other JP outlets, many in MTR stations, including a branch in **Wan Chai** (Map p65; ☎ 2838 2081; 158 Hennessy Rd).

TAI YIP ART BOOK CENTRE Map p68 Books
☎ 2524 5963; Room 101-102, 1st fl, Capitol Plaza, 2-10 Lyndhurst Tce; MTR Central (exit C)
Tai Yip has a terrific selection of books about anything that is Chinese and artsy: calligraphy, jade, bronze, costumes, architecture, symbolism. This is a good place to look deeper if you're planning on buying art in Hong Kong. There are outlets in several of Hong Kong's museums, including the **Hong Kong Museum of Art** (p90).

CARAVAN Map p56 Carpets
☎ 2547 3821; 65 Hollywood Rd; 🕒 26
A shop called Caravan with an owner named Driver? Trustworthy rugsellers travel all over Asia to stock this nicely cluttered shop. The range of Afghan and Tibetan carpets is especially notable among a varied rug range.

MIR ORIENTAL CARPETS Map p68 Carpets
☎ 2521 5641; Ground fl, New India House, 52 Wyndham St; 🕒 26
This two-floor shop is the largest stockist of fine rugs in Hong Kong, with thousands of carpets from around the world flying in and out of the store. It is the top specialist in town for Persian carpets.

CIGAR EXPRESS CENTRAL Map p68 Cigars
☎ 2110 9201; Shop 4A, Ground fl, Cheung Fai Bldg, 45-47 Cochrane St; ☹ 11am-11pm Mon-Sat, noon-6pm Sun; MTR Central (exit E)
This branch of a Hong Kong chain sells everything from a \$30 Honduran Quintero stogy to a hand-rolled Cuban Cohiba Double Corona for \$350 a pop.

BOOKSHOP CHAINS

Bookazine (Map p56; ☎ 2522 1785; Shop 309-313A, 3rd fl, Prince's Bldg, 10 Chater Rd; MTR Central, exit G) Largest of these chain stores dotted around the territory. Dependable range of books, magazines and stationery. Also a branch in **Admiralty** (Map p63; ☎ 2866 7522; Shop C, Upper ground fl, Far East Finance Centre, 16 Harcourt Rd).

Dymocks (Map p56; ☎ 2117 0360; Shop 2007-2011, 2nd fl, IFC Mall, 8 Finance St; MTR Central, exit A) Australian bookshop chain offering a solid mainstream selection of books and magazines in several branches.

Hong Kong Book Centre (Map p56; ☎ 2522 7064; www.swindonbooks.com; Basement, On Lok Yuen Bldg, 25 Des Voeux Rd Central; MTR Central, exit B) Basement shop with a vast selection of books and magazines, particularly business titles.

CIGARRO Map p56 Cigars
☎ 2810 1883; Shop 5, Ground fl, St George's Bldg, 2 Ice House St; MTR Central
There's nothing like a fat cigar to say you're making it big in the city. This smoke shop in Central comes to the rescue with Cuban, Dominican, Nicaraguan and other fine stogies.

BAPE STORE Map p56 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 2868 9448; 10 Queen's Rd Central; MTR Central (exit D1)
How Japanese label Bathing Ape's formerly hard-to-find T-shirts, trainers and other urban wear will sustain their cool, cult reputation with socking great flagship stores like this one is anyone's guess, but it's worth a look if you were born no earlier than the 1980s. Check out the underfloor footwear 'train' as you enter.

BLANC DE CHINE Map p56 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 2524 7875; Room 201 & 203A, 2nd fl, Pedder Bldg, 12 Pedder St; MTR Central (exit D1)
This sumptuous store specialises in traditional men's Chinese jackets, off the rack or made to measure. There's also a lovely selection of silk dresses for women. The satin bed linens are exquisite (as are the old ship's cabinets in which they are displayed).

BOSSINI Map p56 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 2523 0520; On Lok Yuen Bldg, 27a Des Voeux Rd Central; ☹ 11am-10pm; MTR Central (exit B)
You'll find plenty of inexpensive, wearable, everyday threads here, in the same kind of cuts and styles as Gap or i.t. A good store for stocking up on T-shirts and other basics.

CARPET CENTRE Map p68 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 2850 4993; Shop A, Lower ground fl, 29 Hollywood Rd; 🕒 26

No, you're not being asked to don a dhurry... This place has pashmina shawls, ranging in price from \$350 to \$900, and exotic slippers fit for a sultana. Enter the store from Cochrane St.

H&M Map p68 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 2110 9546; 68 Queen's Rd; MTR Central (exit D2)
This Swedish chain has finally brought its inexpensive, of-the-moment clothing to Hong Kong. The appeal is discount prices with lines that track high-end fashion trends closely, partly with the help of fashion collaborations with the likes of Madonna, Stella McCartney and Kylie Minogue.

JILIAN, LINGERIE ON WYNDHAM Map p56 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 2826 9295; Ground fl, 31 Wyndham St; MTR Central (exit D2)
Swimwear and a vast range of French and Italian lingerie from gossamer delicates small enough to swallow with a glass of water to rather *outré* corsetry with strings and stays and such. There's even a small range of men's designer smalls if you just can't put up with your man's industrial-sized underpants any longer. Labels stocked include Eres, Argentovivo, I.D. Sarrieri, Cadolle, Aubade, Bacirubati, Pin-up Stars, Jonquil, Revanche de la Femme, Rosa Cha and Grigioperla.

JOYCE Map p56 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 2810 1120; Ground fl, New World Tower, 16 Queen's Rd Central; MTR Central (exit D1)
This multidesigner store is a good choice if you're short of time rather than money: Issey Miyake, Alexander McQueen, Marc Jacobs, Comme des Garçons, Chloë, Pucci, Yohji Yamamoto and several Hong Kong fashion names are just some of the designers whose wearable wares are on

display. There's another branch of Joyce in **Admiralty** (Map p63; ☎ 2523 5944; Shop 334, 3rd fl, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway). For the same duds at half the price, visit **Joyce Warehouse** (☎ 2814 8313; 21st fl, Horizon Plaza Arcade, 2 Lee Wing St, Ap Lei Chau; 🚫 closed Mon), opposite the Aberdeen waterfront.

LINVA TAILOR Map p68 Clothing & Accessories

☎ 2544 2456; Ground fl, 38 Cochrane St; 🕒 26 This is the place to come to have your very own cheongsam (tight-fitting Chinese dress) tailored. Bring your own silk or choose from Miss Tong's selection. The proprietors are also happy to mail completed items, if you're pushed for time.

LITTLE MISSES & MINI MASTERS

Map p56 Clothing & Accessories

☎ 2156 1118; Shop 307, 3rd fl, Prince's Bldg, 10 Chater Rd; MTR Central (exit G) Horrible name but this children's shop, owned and managed by expats, has some of the most stylish clothing imaginable for kids. You'll also find a select range of upmarket toys here.

LULU CHEUNG Map p56 Clothing & Accessories

☎ 2537 7515; Shop B63, Basement, Landmark Bldg, 1 Pedder St; MTR Central (exit G) Local Designer Lulu makes sophisticated, understated women's casual wear and elegant evening gowns using natural fabrics, such as wool, cotton, silk, linen, in muted tones. Cheung also often works with layers and textures using mesh or floral embroidery.

MIU MIU Map p56 Clothing & Accessories

☎ 2523 7833; Shop B24, Basement, Landmark Bldg, 1 Pedder St; MTR Central Clean lines, the best fabrics and a lush colour palette define the high-end fashion from this Prada spin-off. Great (and pricey) shoes and handbags, too. A range of smaller accessories makes it a good place to hunt for presents.

SHANGHAI TANG

Map p56 Clothing & Accessories

☎ 2525 7333; Basement & ground fl, Pedder Bldg, 12 Pedder St; MTR Central (exit D1) This stylish shop has sparked something of a fashion wave in Hong Kong with its updated versions of traditional yet neon-

coloured Chinese garments. It also stocks accessories and delightful gift items. Custom tailoring is available.

HARVEY NICHOLS Map p56 Department Store

☎ 3695 3389; www.harveynichols.com; Landmark Bldg, 1 Pedder St; MTR Central (exit G) Britain's Harvey Nichols has brought its diverse, profuse and on-the-pulse range of couture and smart street fashions to Hong Kong, occupying four floors at the Landmark.

LANE CRAWFORD Map p56 Department Store

☎ 2118 3388; Level 3, IFC Mall, 8 Finance St; MTR Central (exit A) This branch of Hong Kong's original Western-style department store, the territory's answer to Harrods in London, is the flagship now that the store on Queen's Rd Central has closed. There are branches in **Admiralty** (Map p63; ☎ 2118 3668; 1st & 2nd fls, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway), **Causeway Bay** (Map p74; ☎ 2118 3638; Ground & 1st fls, Times Square, 1 Matheson St) and **Tsim Sha Tsui** (Map p92; ☎ 2118 3428; Ground & 1st fls, Ocean Terminal, Harbour City, Salisbury Rd).

THE SWANK Map p56 Department Store

☎ 2868 3804 (ladies), 2810 0769; Shop 202, 2nd fl, Alexandra House, 16-20 Chater Rd; MTR Central (exit H) A long-standing fashion powerhouse, the Swank stocks a good range of established, mainly European labels, including Kenzo, Sonia Rykel, Christian Lacroix and Givenchy, plus a smattering of up-and-coming talent from Hong Kong and the world's fashion centres.

OCEAN OPTICAL Map p56 Eyewear

☎ 2868 5670; Shop 5, Ground fl, The Cascade, Standard Chartered Bank Bldg, 4-4A Des Voeux Rd Central; MTR Central (exit G) Both frames and lenses can be cheaper (in some case, much cheaper) in Hong Kong than what you would pay at home, and we do not know of a better optician in Hong Kong than Ocean Optical. There's a branch in **Tsim Sha Tsui** (Map p92; ☎ 2735 0611; Shop 326, 3rd fl, Ocean Centre, Harbour City, 3-9 Canton Rd).

ANGLO-CHINESE FLORIST

Map p68 Flowers

☎ 2921 2986; Ground fl, Winway Bldg, 50 Wellington St; MTR Central

If you've been invited to someone's home and you wish to bring flowers – as is *de rigueur* here – stop by Anglo-Chinese. Nobody does them better. You'll also find some exquisite bonsai here.

FOOK MING TONG TEA SHOP

Map p56 Food & Drink

☎ 2295 0368; Shop 3006, IFC Mall, 8 Finance St; MTR Central (exit A) Tea-making accoutrements and carefully chosen teas of various ages and grades, from gunpowder to Nanyan Ti Guan Yin Crown Grade – costing anything from \$10 to \$9000 per 100g. There's also a branch in **Tsim Sha Tsui** (Map p92; ☎ 2735 1077; Shop 3225, Level 3, Gateway Arcade, Harbour City, 25-27 Canton Rd).

OLYMPIA GRAECO-EGYPTIAN COFFEE

Map p68 Food & Drink

☎ 2522 4653; Ground fl, 24 Old Bailey St; 🚫 closed Sun; 🕒 26 This place has been around since, well, anyone can remember, and it still grinds the best beans in town.

SOHO WINES & SPIRITS

Map p68 Food & Drink

☎ 2530 1182; 37 Staunton St; 🕒 26 Its name notwithstanding, this place's forte is in its large selection of beer and spirits. If it's not here, it probably isn't made or drunk any longer. Its prices tend to be keen, thanks to the shop's hospitality-trade wholesaling business.

THREE SIXTY Map p56 Food & Drink

☎ 2111 4480; 3rd & 4th fl, Landmark Bldg, 1 Pedder St; MTR Central (exit G) A fabulous addition to Hong Kong's food scene, Three Sixty sells a great range of organic and natural foods, as well as top notch imports of hard-to-find ingredients from all over the world. The prices, of course, are high. There's also a terrific food court with cuisine from all over the world on the upper floor.

WATSON'S WINE CELLAR

Map p68 Food & Drink

☎ 2869 2210; 2 Staunton St; 🕒 26 The choice at this wine emporium is enormous and the staff is always willing to assist. There's a branch in **Causeway Bay** (Map p74; ☎ 2895 6975; Basement, Windsor House, 311 Gloucester Rd).

LIULIGONGFANG Map p56 Gifts & Souvenirs

☎ 2973 0820; Shop 20-22, Ground fl, Central Bldg, 1-3 Pedder St; MTR Central Exquisite coloured-glass objects, both practical (vases, candle holders, jewellery) and ornamental (figurines, crystal Buddhas, breathtaking sculptures) from renowned Taiwanese glass sculptor Loretta Yang Hui-Shan are on display and for sale here. There's another branch in **Admiralty** (Map p63; ☎ 2918 9001; Shop 320, 3rd fl, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway).

MANDARIN ORIENTAL FLOWER & GIFT SHOP Map p56 Gifts & Souvenirs

☎ 2825 4019; Ground fl, Mandarin Oriental, 5 Connaught Rd Central; MTR Central (exit F) Crockery, cushion covers, chopsticks, tasteful souvenirs and a small selection of jewellery, all of the highest quality, are available, plus the flowers, of course.

MOUNTAIN FOLK CRAFT

Map p68 Gifts & Souvenirs

☎ 2523 2817; 12 Wo On Lane; 🚫 closed Sun; MTR Central This is one of the nicest shops in Central for folk craft. It's piled with bolts of batik and sarongs, clothing, wood carvings, lacquerware and papercuts made by ethnic minorities in China and other Asian countries. The shop attendants are friendly, and prices, while not cheap, are not outrageous either.

WAH TUNG CHINA ARTS

Map p68 Gifts & Souvenirs

☎ 2543 2823; 59 Hollywood Rd; 🚫 closed Sun; 🕒 26 Wah Tung, the world's largest supplier of hand-decorated ceramics, has some 18,000 items on display at this showroom, just east of Pacific Place. You'll find everything from brightly painted vases and ginger jars to repro Tang-dynasty figurines.

KING FOOK Map p68 Jewellery

☎ 2822 8573; Ground fl, King Fook Bldg, 30-32 Des Voeux Rd Central; MTR Central (exit C) King Fook, with a grandiose gilded entrance, stocks a large range of watches, top-end fountain pens and baubles. There's another branch in **Tsim Sha Tsui** (Map p92; ☎ 2313 2788; Shop G1, Miramar Shopping Centre, 118-130 Nathan Rd).

ROCK CANDY Map p68

Jewellery

☎ 2549 1018; 1 Elgin St, Soho; 🕒 26

Made from black glass and with pin-prick lights illuminating display cases, this goth-glam jewellery shop (and its ubertrendy gewgaws) has to be seen to be believed.

TSE SUI LUEN Map p68

Jewellery

☎ 2921 8800; Ground fl, Commercial House, 35 Queen's Rd Central; MTR Central (exit D2)

This is the most sparkling of Tse Sui Luen's dozen or so outlets and is worth visiting for its sheer opulence or garishness – however you see it. There's another branch in **Tsim Sha Tsui** (Map p92); ☎ 2926 3210; Shop A & B, Ground fl, 190 Nathan Rd).

HMV Map p56

Music

☎ 2739 0268; 1st fl, Central Bldg, 1-3 Pedder St; MTR Central

This Aladdin's cave of music not only has Hong Kong's largest choice of CDs, DVDs and cassettes, but also a great range of music-related literature. There are branches in **Causeway Bay** (Map p74; ☎ 2504 3669; 1st fl, Style House, The Park Lane) and **Tsim Sha Tsui** (Map p92; ☎ 2302 0122; 2nd fl, HK Pacific Centre, 28 Hankow Rd).

EVERBEST PHOTO SUPPLIES

Map p68

Photographic Equipment

☎ 2522 1985; 28B Stanley St; MTR Central

This extremely reliable shop is where many of Hong Kong's professional photographers buy their equipment. Same day or next day China visas are an odd but useful sideline here.

PHOTO SCIENTIFIC

Map p68

Photographic Equipment

☎ 2525 0550; 6 Stanley St; 🕒 9am-7pm Mon-Sat; MTR Central (exit D2)

This is the favourite of Hong Kong's resident pros. You'll almost certainly find equipment elsewhere for less, but Photo Scientific has a rock-solid reputation with labelled prices, no bargaining, no arguing and no cheating.

IFC MALL Map p56

Shopping Mall

☎ 2295 3308; www.ifc.com.hk; 8 Finance St; MTR Hong Kong

As if Central didn't have nearly enough luxury retail space already, they built this swanky shopping centre with 200 high-fashion boutiques linking the One and Two

IFC towers and the Four Seasons Hotel. Outlets include Patrick Cox, Geiger, Longchamp, Kenzo, Vivienne Tam, Zegna... we could go on. The Hong Kong Airport Express Station is downstairs.

LANDMARK Map p56

Shopping Mall

☎ 2525 4142; www.centralhk.com; 1 Pedder St; MTR Central

The most central of all shopping centres, the Landmark has high fashion and good eating in a pleasant, open space. It has become a home almost exclusively to the very high-end fashion brands and boutiques (Gucci, Louis Vuitton, TOD's etc) and a handful of worthwhile refreshment stops.

PRINCE'S BUILDING Map p56

Shopping Mall

☎ 2504 0704; www.centralhk.com; 10 Chater Rd; MTR Central

You may find the layout of Prince's Building disorientating, but it's worth a look for its speciality fashion, toy and kitchenware shops. The selection is rather eclectic – from high-end boutiques such as Chanel and Cartier on the ground floor to booksellers, Mothercare, jewellers, stationers and luggage shops on the levels above. It's an especially good place to bring the kids as almost the entire 3rd floor is given over to children's shops.

TOY MUSEUM Map p56

Toys

☎ 2869 9138; Shop 320, 3rd fl, Prince's Bldg, 10 Chater Rd; MTR Central (exit K)

Top-of-the-line teddy bears, action men, Beanie Babies and Pokemon paraphernalia are crammed into a tight space here. There's a great collection of old GI Joes for dads to amuse themselves with and a toy hospital, too.

CITY CHAIN Map p68

Watches

☎ 2259 9020; Ground fl, Man Yee Bldg, 67 Queen's Rd Central; MTR Central (exit D2)

City Chain stocks every type of wristwatch imaginable – from the stylish and dressy to the funky and glitzy. It has some two-dozen outlets in Hong Kong, including one in **Admiralty** (Map p63); ☎ 2845 9403; Shop 112, 1st fl, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway).

SHEUNG WAN

For antiques and curios, head for Hollywood Rd, which starts in Central and ends up in

Sheung Wan, where there is a long string of shops selling Asian items. Some of the really good spots have genuine finds, but beware of what you buy. Western Market (p70) is a good spot for buying fabrics and curios. There are also a couple of big department stores in the area.

WING ON Map p70

Department Store

☎ 2852 1888; 211 Des Voeux Rd Central; MTR Sheung Wan

'Forever Peaceful' is notable for being locally owned. It carries a range of goods but is especially well known for inexpensive electronics and household appliances. There is another branch located in **Tsim Sha Tsui** (Map p97); ☎ 2710 6288; 345 Nathan Rd).

LOK CHA TEA SHOP Map p56

Food & Drink

☎ 2805 1360; Ground fl, 290B Queen's Rd Central; 🕒 26

This favourite shop sells Chinese teas of infinite variety, as well as tea sets, wooden tea boxes and well-presented gift packs of various cuppas. A great bonus is that you can try before you buy. Enter the shop from Ladder St.

PO KEE FISHING TACKLE

Map p56

Sporting Goods

☎ 2543 7541; 6 Hillier St; 🕒 closed Sun; MTR Sheung Wan (exit A2)

The guys at Po Kee have had the market cornered – hook, line and sinker – on fishing supplies since 1933, when it served Hong Kong's commercial fishing fleet. Now it exclusively serves sports-fishing enthusiasts.

ADMIRALTY & WAN CHAI

Admiralty, bordering Wan Chai, has one of Hong Kong Island's glitziest shopping malls, Pacific Place, just opposite Admiralty station, to which it is connected by elevated and underground walkways.

Wan Chai is a good spot for medium and low-priced clothing, sporting goods and footwear, but the area caters mainly for locals. The district has little glamour, but it is well worth hunting for bargains.

COSMOS BOOKS Map p65

Books

☎ 2866 1677; Basement & 1st fl, 30 Johnston Rd, Wan Chai; 🕒 6, 6A or 6X

This chain-store branch has a good selection of China-related books in the base-

ment. Upstairs are English-language books (nonfiction is strong) plus one of Hong Kong's best stationery departments. Enter the Wan Chai store from Lun Fat St and the Tsimshy branch from Granville Rd.

KELLY & WALSH Map p63

Books

☎ 2522 5743; Shop 236, 2nd fl, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty; MTR Admiralty

This smart shop has a good selection of art, design and culinary books, and the staff know the stock well. Books for children are shelved in a handy kids' reading lounge. There's also a **Central branch** (Map p56); ☎ 2810 5128; Shop 305, 3rd fl, Exchange Square Tower I).

KENT & CURWEN

Map p63

Clothing & Accessories

☎ 2840 0023; Shop 372, 3rd fl, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty; MTR Admiralty

Distinguished suits, dress shirts, ties, cufflinks and casual tops for the gentleman who'd rather look to the manor born than arriviste broker.

PACIFIC CUSTOM TAILORS

Map p63

Clothing & Accessories

☎ 2845 5377; Shop 110, 1st fl, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty; MTR Admiralty (exit C1)

This is one of our favourite bespoke tailors in Hong Kong. It'll make or copy anything; turnaround on most items is two or three days, including two fittings. Count on about \$4000 for a suit.

VIVIENNE TAM Map p63

Clothing & Accessories

☎ 2918 0238; www.vivienntam.com; Shop 209, 2nd fl, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty; MTR Admiralty (exit F)

This enduring brand from New York-based designer Tam, who was trained in Hong Kong, sells eminently wearable, feminine but also streetwise women's foundation pieces, light gossamer dresses and slinky tops, plus a range of accessories.

WAN CHAI COMPUTER CENTRE

Map p65

Computers

1st fl, Southern Centre, 130-138 Hennessy Rd, Wan Chai; 🕒 closed Sun; MTR Wan Chai (exit B2)

This place, on the northern edge of Southern Playground, is a cut above Hong Kong's computer emporiums. The prices on pretty much everything digital are generally keener than the local chain stores.

CHINESE ARTS & CRAFTS

Map p63 Department Store

☎ 2523 3933; Shop 220, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty; MTR Admiralty (exit F)

Mainland-owned CAC is probably the best place in Hong Kong to buy quality bric-a-brac and other Chinese trinkets; it's positively an Aladdin's cave of souvenirs. On Hong Kong Island there's also a branch in **Central** (Map p68; ☎ 2901 0338; Ground fl, Asia Standard Tower, 59 Queen's Rd Central), **Tsim Sha Tsui** (Map p92; ☎ 2735 4061; 1st fl, Star House, 3 Salisbury Rd) and a huge branch in **Wan Chai** (Map p65; ☎ 2827 6667; Lower Block, China Resources Bldg, 26 Harbour Rd).

DESIGN GALLERY Map p65 Gifts & Souvenirs

☎ 2584 4146; Level 1, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, 1 Harbour Rd, Wan Chai; ☎ 18 Supported by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, this shop showcases local design in the form of jewellery, toys, ornaments and gadgets. It's a chaotic but often rewarding gaggle of goodies. A great place to find present-buying inspiration. There's also a branch in the check-in hall at the airport (☎ 2261 2524; TE07, level 7).

HONG KONG RECORDS Map p63 Music

☎ 2845 7088; Shop 252, 2nd fl, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty; MTR Admiralty

This local outfit has a good selection of Cantonese and international sounds, including traditional Chinese, jazz, classical and contemporary music. There's also a good range of DVDs and VCDs of both Chinese films and Western movies with Chinese subtitles. There's also a **Kowloon Tong branch** (Map pp88-9; ☎ 2265 8299; Shop L1-02, Level 1, Festival Walk, 80-88 Tat Chee Ave).

MIGHTY MICROMALLS

Crammed into old buildings, above MTR stations, up escalators and in back lanes are Hong Kong's malls of microshops, selling designer threads, a kaleidoscope of kooky accessories and a colourful closet of funky footwear. This is where Hong Kong's youngest mall-trawlers go for clothes, trinkets and to capture the moment on sticker machines. The best shopping is done from 3pm to 10pm, when *all* the shops are open.

- **Beverly Commercial Centre** (Map p94; 87-105 Chatham Rd South, Tsim Sha Tsui; Tsim Sha Tsui MTR) Enter via the passage north of Observatory Rd
- **Island Beverley** (Map p65; 1 Great George St, Causeway Bay; Causeway Bay MTR)
- **Rise Commercial Centre** (Map p94; 5-11 Granville Circuit, Tsim Sha Tsui; Tsim Sha Tsui MTR)
- **Trendy Zone** (Map p97; Chow Tai Fook Centre, 580A Nathan Rd, Mong Kok; Mong Kok MTR)
- **Up Date Mall** (Map p92; 36-44 Nathan Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui; Tsim Sha Tsui MTR)

SUNMARK CAMPING EQUIPMENT

Map p65 Outdoor Gear

☎ 2893 8553; 1st fl, 121 Wan Chai Rd, Wan Chai; ☎ noon-8pm Mon-Sat, 1.30-7.30pm Sun; ☎ 6, 6A or 6X

Head here for hiking and camping gear and waterproof clothing of all sorts. There's also a small selection of second-hand gear. Enter from Bullock Lane.

PACIFIC PLACE Map p63 Shopping Mall

☎ 2844 8988; www.pacificplace.com.hk; 88 Queensway, Admiralty; MTR Admiralty (exit F) One of the city's best shopping malls, Pacific Place has, if anything, gone further upmarket recently. There are a couple of hundred outlets, dominated by higher-end men's and women's fashion (from the likes of Burberry, Chanel, Chloé, Loewe, Marc Jacobs and Versace) and accessories (Bottega Veneta, Coach, Fendi, Gucci etc). There's also a Lane Crawford department store.

BUNN'S DIVERS Map p65 Sporting Goods

☎ 3422 3322; Mezzanine, Chuen Fung House, 188-192 Johnston Rd, Wan Chai; MTR Wan Chai (exit A3) Masks, snorkels, fins, regulators, tanks – Hong Kong's longest-established dive shop also runs dive tours and training courses.

KUNG FU SUPPLIES Map p65 Sporting Goods

☎ 2891 1912; Room 6A, 6th fl, Chuen Fung House, 188-192 Johnston Rd, Wan Chai; ☎ 6, 6A or 6X If you need to stock up on martial arts accessories or just want to thumb through a decent collection of books, this is the place to go. The staff here is very helpful.

WISE KIDS Map p63 Toys

☎ 2868 0133; Shop 134, 1st fl, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty; MTR Admiralty (exit F)

Nothing to plug in, nothing with batteries: Wise Kids concentrates on kids generating energy with what's upstairs. Along with stuffed toys, card games and things to build, there are practical items for parents such as toilet-lid locks and carry-alls. There's also a branch in **Central** (Map p56; ☎ 2377 9888; Shop 301, 3rd fl, Prince's Bldg, 10 Chater Rd).

CAUSEWAY BAY

Causeway Bay has perhaps the largest weekend crowds and the broadest spectrum in terms of price. It is a crush of department stores and smaller outlets selling designer and street fashion, electronics, sporting goods and household items. A good up-and-coming neighbourhood for hip fashions is springing up along Paterson and Kingston Sts close to Victoria Park. Causeway Bay also has a few lively street markets. Jardine's Bazaar (actually a street) and the area behind it are home to stalls and shops peddling cheap clothing, luggage and footwear. The area is also home to the huge Times Square shopping mall.

D-MOP Map p74 Clothing & Accessories

☎ 2203 4130; Shop B, Ground fl, 8 Kingston St; MTR Causeway Bay (exit E)

This is the main outlet for one of Hong Kong's edgier designer lines. It specialises in slinky tops, some out-there *avant garde* one-offs, cool shoes and a handful of hip hipsters from international labels such as Tsubi jeans.

DADA CABARET VOLTAIRE

Map p74 Clothing & Accessories

☎ 2890 1708; Shop F-13A, 1st fl, Fashion Island, 47 Paterson St; ☎ 12.30-10pm; MTR Causeway Bay (exit E)

Selling bold urban clothing in primary colours also sported by the staff, this is just one of many fine shops in the Fashion Island micromall, where you'll also find branches of shoe god Patrick Cox, Armani Exchange and Gayetano.

SISTER Map p74 Clothing & Accessories

☎ 2504 1016; Shop 331, 3rd fl, Island Beverley, 1 Great George St; ☎ 2-11pm; MTR Causeway Bay (exit E)

This 'trendy fashion store' sells young Hong Kong designer wear verging on the wacky, which is saying something given the competition in this mall.

SPY Map p74 Clothing & Accessories

☎ 2893 7799; Shop C, Ground fl, 11 Sharp St East; ☎ noon-11pm; MTR Causeway Bay (exit A) Tame yet trendy everyday wear, such as slacks and short-sleeved shirts. Spy also has two other outlets, including one in **Tsim Sha Tsui East** (Map p94; ☎ 2366 5866; Shop 406-407, 4th fl, Rise Commercial Centre, 5-11 Granville Circuit; ☎ 2-11pm).

WALTER MA Map p74 Clothing & Accessories

☎ 2838 7655; Ground fl, 33 Sharp St East; ☎ noon-10pm Mon-Fri, noon-10.30pm Sat & Sun; MTR Causeway Bay (exit A) Sophisticated but comfortable women's fashions from the daddy of Hong Kong's home-grown fashion industry. It ranges from smart-casual office wear to more glamorous evening wear.

IN SQUARE Map p74 Computers

10th-11th fl, Windsor House, 311 Gloucester Rd; MTR Causeway Bay (exit D1) This landmark building in Causeway Bay houses dozens of reliable computer shops, selling both hardware and software. There's also space to browse at leisure here, unlike the usual electronics warren.

SOGO Map p74 Department Store

☎ 2833 8338; www.sogo.com.hk; 555 Hennessy Rd; MTR Causeway Bay (exit B) This Japanese-owned store, in the hub of Causeway Bay, has 12 well-organised floors and more than 37,000 sq metres of retail space. The range is mind-boggling: over 20 brands of ties just for starters. Eclectic departments include the Barbie Counter and the Character's Shop.

MOUNTAINERING SERVICES

Map p74 Outdoor Gear

☎ 2541 8876; Ground fl, 271 Gloucester Rd; MTR Causeway Bay (exit D1) This excellent and centrally located shop sells climbing and hiking gear and pretty much everything you need for tackling Hong Kong's hills and country parks.

CITYPLAZA Map pp54-5 Shopping Mall

☎ 2568 8665; www.cityplaza.com.hk; 18 Tai Koo Shing Rd, Tai Koo Shing, Quarry Bay; MTR Tai Koo (exit D2) The largest shopping centre in eastern Hong Kong Island, with 180 shops (mainly fashion and electronics), Cityplaza is directly

linked up to the MTR. Being further from the main business district, it charges retailers lower rents, which can translate into lower prices for shoppers. There's a Wing On department-store branch here, as well as an ice-skating rink.

KITTY HOUSE GIFTS SHOP

Map p74 Shopping Mall
☎ 2890 6968; Shop 229, Island Beverley, 1 Gt George St, Causeway Bay; MTR Causeway Bay (exit E)

This is just one of the dozens of micro-stores cramming into Island Beverley selling Japanese cartoon ephemera such as Hello Kitty, the cat with no mouth, and an abiding attraction to young locals. A good place for kitschy gifts and toys.

RAINBOW CITY

Map p74 Shopping Mall
☎ 2881 1423; 1st fl, Fashion Island; MTR Causeway Bay (exit E)

Japanese cartoons and all manner of cutesy kitsch is splashed across the clothes and bags in vivid technicolour in this store aimed at local teens, tweens and twenty-some-things.

TIMES SQUARE

Map p74 Shopping Mall
☎ 2118 8900; www.timessquare.com.hk; 1 Matheson St; MTR Causeway Bay (exit A)

The 10 floors of retail organised by type are slightly less high end than in Central. Fashion brands and outlets include Lane Crawford, Anne Sui, Aquascutum, Birkenstock, Jessica, Marks & Spencer, Vivienne Westwood and Vivienne Tam. There are plenty of electronics and homewares. There are restaurants on the 10th to 13th floors, and snack bars, cafés and a supermarket in the basement.

KOWLOON

Shopping in Kowloon is a bizarre mix of the down at heel and the glamorous, and an afternoon's stroll through its shopping quarters should yield quite a few surprises.

TSIM SHA TSUI

Nathan Rd is the main tourist strip, a huge avenue with side streets full of camera, watch and electronic shops, and leather and silk emporiums. Although this is the part of town where you're most likely to become a victim of sharp practice, Tsim Sha Tsui is also home to

a large number of above-board designer and signature shops. Some of these are found in Nathan Rd, but the bulk are in Harbour City, a labyrinthine shopping complex with a mall that stretches nearly 1km from the Star Ferry terminal north along Canton Rd. Many hotels in Tsim Sha Tsui have very upmarket boutique shopping arcades, most notably the Peninsula and the Hotel Inter-Continental.

SWINDON BOOKS

Map p92 Books
☎ 2366 8001; 13-15 Lock Rd; 📍 Tsim Sha Tsui (exit C1)

This is one of the best 'real' (as opposed to supermarket) bookshops in Hong Kong, with an excellent range and knowledgeable staff. Strong on local books and history in particular.

TRAVELLERS' HOME

Map p92 Books
☎ 2380 8380; travelbookshop@yahoo.com.hk; 2nd fl, 55 Hankow Rd; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui (exit A1)

This one-stop shop has become something of a meeting place for travellers in Tsim Sha Tsui. It sells both new and used travel books (roughly 30% and 70%, respectively), schedules travel talks and hosts photo exhibitions. It has a small café corner and a message board.

CHINESE CARPET CENTRE

Map p94 Carpets
☎ 2736 1773; Shop L021, Ground fl, New World Centre, 18-24 Salisbury Rd; 📍 5C or 8

This place has an excellent selection of new Chinese carpets and rugs, many of them handmade, in silk, wool and cotton as well as acrylic. There's another branch in **Tsim Sha Tsui East** (**Map p94**; ☎ 2730 7230; Shop 5, Ground fl, Houston Centre, 63 Mody Rd).

BEATNIKS

Map p94 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 2739 8494; Shop 1, Rise Commercial Bldg, Granville Circuit; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui (exit B1)

A selective stock ensures a visit to this vintage-clothing outlet isn't like the jumble-sale rummage you get with many second-hand outlets. The focus here is on street styles and left-field cool, rather than on high fashion or couture.

GRANVILLE RD

Map p94 Clothing & Accessories
Granville Rd; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui

If you want to hunt for bargains and have the time and inclination to rifle through racks and piles of factory seconds, the

dozen or so factory outlet stores along Granville Rd should reward you with prices at a fraction of store prices. It's pot luck as to what labels you will find, although they tend to be familiar, slightly premium mainstream casual and leisure brands (both international and local). Hotspots include **UNO OUN** (29 Granville Rd), **Sample Moon** (30 Granville Rd) and the **Baleno Outlet Store** (24B Granville Rd).

I.T

Map p92 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 2736 9152; Shop 1030, 1st fl, Miramar Shopping Centre, 1-23 Kimberley Rd; 🕒 noon-10pm; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui (exit B1)

This shop and the women's-only **b+ab** shop next door both sell stylish mainstream fashion fairly typical of the type that abounds in Hong Kong, although it's a notch up in quality and price from the likes of Bossini. There are i.t shops in all the major shopping areas, including in **Causeway Bay** (**Map p74**; ☎ 2506 0186; Shop 517, 5th fl, Times Square, 1 Matheson St).

LIDS

Map p92 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 3523 0626; Shop 2, Park Hotel, 61-65 Chatham Rd South; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui (exit G)

This is the place to come for headgear – from baseball caps begging to be turned back to front, to helmets for cyclists, rollerbladers and skateboarders.

SAM'S TAILOR

Map p92 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 2367 9423; Shop K, Burlington Arcade, 92-94 Nathan Rd; 🕒 10am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, 10am-noon Sun; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui (exit B1)

It's not certain that Sam's is the best tailor in Hong Kong, but it's the most aggressively marketed and best known. Sam's has stitched up everyone – from royalty and rock stars to us.

WWW.IZZUE.COM

Map p92 Clothing & Accessories
☎ 2992 0612; Shop 2225, 2nd fl, Gateway Arcade, Harbour City, 25-27 Canton Rd; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui (exit E)

DEFENSIVE SHOPPING, BLOW BY BLOW

Hong Kong is *not* a nest of thieves just waiting to rip you off, but pitfalls can strike the uninitiated.

Whatever you are in the market for, always check prices in a few shops before buying. When comparing camera prices, for example, make sure you're comparing not only the same camera body but also comparable lenses and any other accessories included. Always get a manufacturer's guarantee or warranty that is valid worldwide.

The most common way for shopkeepers in Hong Kong to cheat tourists is to simply overcharge. In the tourist shopping district of Tsim Sha Tsui, you'll rarely find price tags on anything. Checking prices in several shops therefore becomes essential. But Hong Kong merchants weren't born yesterday; they know tourists comparison-shop. So staff will often quote a reasonable or even low price on a big-ticket item, only to get the money back by overcharging on accessories.

Spotting overcharging is the easy part, though. Sneakier (but rarer) tricks involve merchants removing vital components that should have been included for free (like the connecting cords for the speakers on a stereo system) and demanding more money when you return to the shop to get them. You should be especially wary if staff want to take the goods into the back room to 'box it up'. Another tactic is to replace some of the good components with cheap or imitation ones.

Watch out for counterfeit-brand goods. Fake labels on clothes are the most obvious example, but there are fake Rolex watches, fake Gucci leather bags, even fake electronic goods. Pirated CDs and DVDs are a positive steal (in more ways than one) but are of poor quality and rapidly deteriorate.

Hong Kong's customs agents have cracked down on the fake cameras and electronic goods, and the problem has been pretty much solved. However, counterfeit brand-name watches remain very common and are constantly being flogged by the irritating touts patrolling Nathan Rd. If you discover that you've been sold a fake brand-name watch by a shopkeeper when you thought you were buying the genuine article, call the **police** (☎ 2527 7177).

If you have any trouble with a dodgy merchant, call the HKTB's **Quality Tourism Services** (QTS; ☎ 2806 2823; www.qts.hk.com) if the shop is a tourist-board member; the HKTB logo will be displayed on the front door or in some other prominent place. Otherwise, contact the **Hong Kong Consumer Council** (☎ 2929 2222; www.consumer.org.hk) Monday to Friday between 9am and 5.45pm.

If you are determined to take legal action against a shopkeeper, the **Small Claims Tribunal** (**Map p65**; ☎ 2582 4084, 2582 4085; 4th fl, Wan Chai Tower, 12 Harbour Rd, Wan Chai; 🕒 9am-1pm & 2-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat; Wan Chai MTR) handles civil cases involving up to a maximum of \$50,000. The **Community Advice Bureau** (**Map p56**; ☎ 2815 5444; www.cab.org.hk; Room 16C, Right Emperor Commercial Bldg, 122-126 Wellington St, Central; 🕒 9.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri) will help you find a lawyer.

Simple, energetic and comfortable styles in this chain of bright, modern boutiques. There are 15 outlets throughout the territory, including a branch in **Central** (Map p56; ☎ 2868 4066; Upper ground fl, 10 Queen's Rd Central).

STAR COMPUTER CITY Map p92 Computers

2nd fl, **Star House**, 3 Salisbury Rd; 🚢 **Star Ferry**
This is the largest complex of retail computer outlets in Tsim Sha Tsui, with some two-dozen shops selling PDAs, laptops, computer games, and all manner of cables and accessories. You could certainly do slightly better on price further north in Mong Kok, but as well as being handier, these outlets are probably a bit more reliable.

ALAN CHAN CREATIONS

Map p92 Gifts & Souvenirs

☎ 2723 2722; www.alanchancreations.com; Shop 5A, Basement, Peninsula Hong Kong, Salisbury Rd; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui

Alan Chan has designed everything – from airport logos to soy-sauce bottles – and now lends his name to stylish souvenirs, such as clothing and ceramic pieces. Some items he has a direct hand in, others he simply approves of. Cool, contemporary Chinese design that should inspire plenty of gift ideas.

CURIO ALLEY Map p92 Gifts & Souvenirs

☎ 10am-8pm; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui

This is a fun place to shop for name chops, soapstone carvings, fans and other Chinese bric-a-brac. It's found in an alleyway between Lock and Hankow Rds, just south of Haiphong Rd.

KING SING JEWELLERY Map p92 Jewellery

☎ 2735 7021; Shop 14, Ground fl, Star House, 3 Salisbury Rd; 🚢 **Star Ferry**

A long-standing jeweller with a wide selection of diamonds, pearls and gold items, many of them made by its own goldsmiths. The sales staff is pleasant and not pushy.

OM INTERNATIONAL Map p92 Jewellery

☎ 2366 3421; 1st fl, Friend's House, 6 Carnarvon Rd; ☎ closed Sun; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui (exit B2)

This place has an excellent selection of saltwater and freshwater pearls, and there's a whole lot more on offer than what's on display. The staff is scrupulously honest, helpful and friendly.

PREMIER JEWELLERY Map p92 Jewellery

☎ 2368 0003; Shop G14-15, Ground fl, Holiday Inn Golden Mile Shopping Mall, 50 Nathan Rd; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui

This third-generation family firm is directed by a qualified gemmologist and one of our favourite places to shop. The range isn't huge, but if you're looking for something particular, give it a day's notice to have a selection ready in time for your arrival. Staff can also help you design your own piece.

TOM LEE MUSIC COMPANY

Map p92 Music

☎ 2723 9932; 1-9 Cameron Lane; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui

Tom Lee, who has almost 20 branches across the territory, is Mr Music in Hong Kong and the man to see if you're looking for Western musical instruments, including guitars, flutes, recorders and the odd mouth organ.

GIGA SPORTS Map p92 Outdoor Gear

☎ 2115 9930; Shop 244-247, 2nd fl, Ocean Terminal, Harbour City, Salisbury Rd; ☎ 10am-8pm; 🚢 **Star Ferry**

This vast sports superstore is Hong Kong's largest, with a wide range of sports equipment, backpacks, clothing and footwear.

TRAVELMAX Map p92 Outdoor Gear

☎ 3188 4271; Shop 270-273, 2nd fl, Ocean Terminal, Harbour City, Salisbury Rd; 🚢 **Star Ferry**
Travelmax sells both lightweight and cold-weather outdoor gear; kids' sizes are available. There's a good range of Eagle Creek travel products here, too.

DAVID CHAN PHOTO SHOP

Map p92 Photographic Equipment

☎ 2723 3886; Shop 15, Ground fl, Champagne Court, 16 Kimberley Rd; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui (exit B1)

If you've decided to give the digital age a miss altogether or at least still use film cameras, this dealer is one of the most reliable in Hong Kong and sells both new and antique cameras.

HARBOUR CITY Map p92 Shopping Mall

☎ 2118 8666; www.harbourcity.com.hk; 3-9 Canton Rd; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui

This is an enormous place, with 700 shops, 50 food and beverage outlets, and five cin-

emas in four separate zones: for kids, sport, fashion and cosmetics and beauty. There's also a large Lane Crawford department store. Every major brand is represented.

KS AHLUWALIA & SONS

Map p92 Sporting Goods

☎ 2368 8334; 8C Hankow Rd; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui (exit E)

Long established, this store is well stocked with golf gear, tennis racquets, cricket bats, shirts and balls. It's cash only and no prices are marked, so haggle away.

OCEAN SKY DIVERS Map p92 Sporting Goods

☎ 2366 3738; 1st fl, 17-19 Lock Rd; www.oceanskydiver.com; MTR Tsim Sha Tsui (exit C1)

Along with a full range of diving and snorkelling gear, this place is also worth consulting about dive courses and ideal dive sites all around the territories coastline and islands.

YAU MA TEI & MONG KOK

To the north of Tsim Sha Tsui, Yau Ma Tei and Mong Kok cater mostly to local shoppers and offer good prices on clothing, sporting goods, camping gear, footwear, computers and other daily necessities. There's nothing very exotic available here, but for your everyday items they're popular spots, and it is fun to see how the local people shop, and to check out what they are buying.

TRENDY ZONE Map p97 Clothing & Accessories

Chow Tai Fook Centre, 580A Nathan Rd; ☎ 1-10pm; MTR Mong Kok (exit E2)

A couple of dozen quirky little fashion outlets crowd into this micromall selling new and vintage gear for guys and gals. It's very urban and aimed largely at a teen and twenty-something clientele.

MONG KOK COMPUTER CENTRE

Map p98 Computers

8-8A Nelson St, Mong Kok; ☎ 1-10pm; MTR Mong Kok (exit E2)

This centre has three floors of computer shops. In general, it's geared more towards the resident Cantonese-speaking market than foreigners, but you can normally get better deals here than in Tsim Sha Tsui. Check out **Winframe System** (☎ 2300 1238; Shop 106-107) on the 1st floor.

YUE HWA CHINESE PRODUCTS EMPORIUM Map p97 Department Store

☎ 2384 0084; 301-309 Nathan Rd; MTR Yau Ma Tei (exit D)

This enormous place, with seven floors of ceramics, furniture, souvenirs and clothing, has absolutely everything the souvenir-hunting tourist could possibly want, as well as bolts of silk, herbs, clothes, porcelain, luggage, umbrellas and kitchenware. There's also a branch in Tsim Sha Tsui on **Kowloon Park Dr** (Map p92; ☎ 2317 5333; 1 Kowloon Park Dr) that's entered from Peking Rd.

CHAMONIX ALPINE EQUIPMENT

Map p97 Outdoor Gear

☎ 2770 6746; 1st fl, On Yip Bldg, 395 Shanghai St; MTR Yau Ma Tei (exit B2)

Far-flung but worth the trip, this Mong Kok shop, run by an avid mountaineer, has a wide range of camping, hiking and climbing equipment.

WISE MOUNT SPORTS

Map p98 Outdoor Gear

☎ 2787 3011; Ground fl, 75 Sai Yee St; ☎ 11.30am-10.30pm; MTR Mong Kok (exit E2)

This is a long-standing family-run shop with camping gear, swimming goggles, pocket knives, compasses, hard-wearing bags and even sports trophies for sale.

WING SHING PHOTO SUPPLIES

Map p98 Photographic Equipment

☎ 2396 6886; 57 Sai Yeung Choi St South; MTR Mong Kok (exit D3)

We've received letters from readers praising the quality of the service and the competitive prices at Wing Shing. We like the hours; the boys in the north always try harder.

LANGHAM PLACE MALL

Map p98 Shopping Mall

☎ 3520 2800; 8 Argyle St; MTR Mong Kok (exit C3)

This 15-storey supermall has some 300 shops that stay open till as late as 11pm. The focal point of the mall is the high-tech Digital Sky where special events take place.

KHS BICYCLES Map p98 Sporting Goods

☎ 2733 7777; 201 Tung Choi St; MTR Mong Kok (exit A2)

A well-stocked shop offering a range of bikes from urban runabouts to rugged mountain-bikes and a good range of accessories.

NEW KOWLOON

Shopping venues in New Kowloon run the gamut from glittering shopping malls, such as Festival Walk in Kowloon Tong, to the cut-price computer centres of Sham Shui Po.

PAGE ONE Map pp88–9

Books

☎ 2778 2808; Shop LG1 30, Lower ground fl, Festival Walk, 80-88 Tat Chee Ave, Kowloon Tong; MTR Kowloon Tong (exit C2)

A chain, yes, but one with attitude. Page One has Hong Kong's best selection of art and design magazines and books; it's also strong on photography, literature, film and children's books. There's also a smaller branch in [Tsim Sha Tsui \(Map p92\)](#); ☎ 2730 6080; Shop 3202, 3rd fl, Gateway Arcade, Harbour City, 25-27 Canton Rd).

GOLDEN COMPUTER ARCADE

Map pp88–9

Computers

Basement & 1st fl, 146-152 Fuk Wa St, Sham Shui Po; Sham MTR Shui Po (exit B1)

This centre sells computers and components, as well as software, VCDs and DVDs, all at the lowest prices this side of Shenzhen.

NEW CAPITAL COMPUTER PLAZA

Map pp88–9

Computers

1st & 2nd fls, 85-89 Un Chau St, Sham Shui Po; MTR Sham Shui Po (exit B1)

This emporium of computer shops has a good range of stock and helpful staff who can produce enough English to close a sale.

FESTIVAL WALK Map pp88–9 Shopping Mall

☎ 2844 2222; www.festivalwalk.com.hk; 80-88 Tat Chee Ave, Kowloon Tong; ☎ 10am-midnight; MTR Kowloon Tong (exit C2)

Festival Walk is a huge and glittering shopping mall with Hong Kong's largest cinema and ice-skating rink. There's a good midrange selection of some 200 shops and around two-dozen restaurants here as well.

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