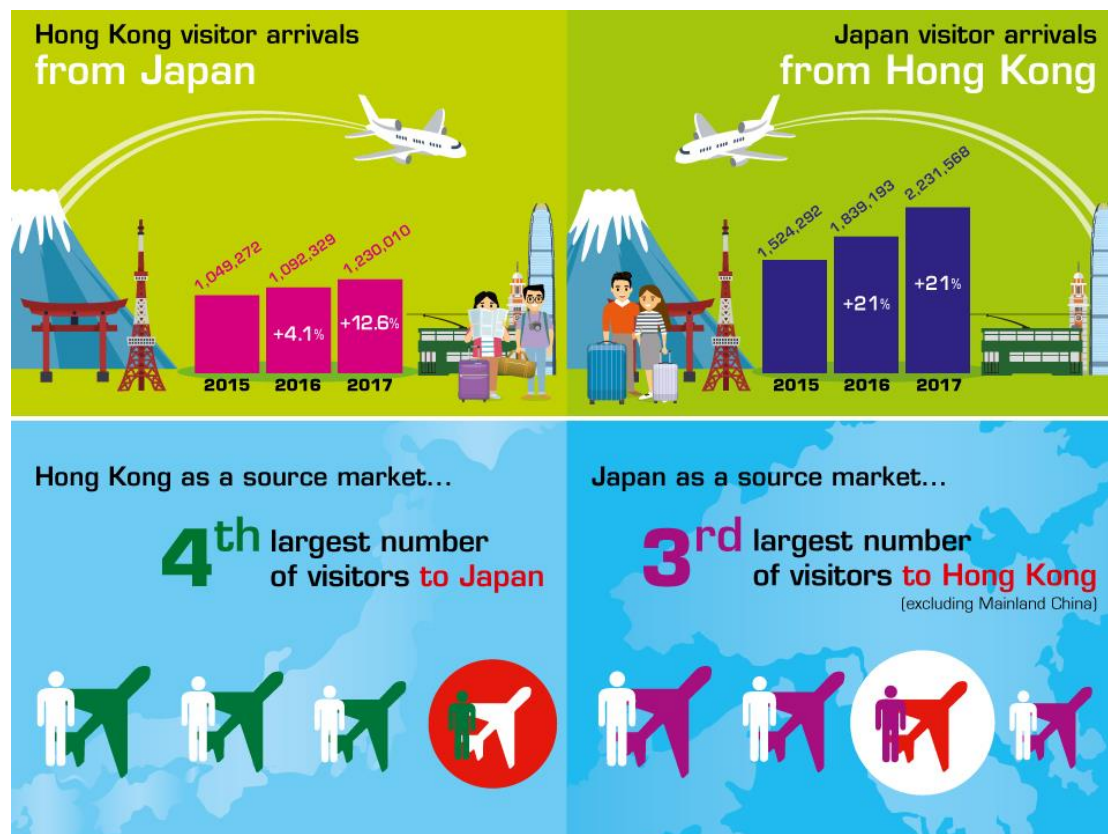


Japan & Hong Kong – Mutually popular travel destinations

Japan and Hong Kong are great travel destinations, perennially popular among travellers of the two places.

Hong Kong is the fourth largest source of visitors to Japan. Last year registered a record 2,232,000 visits from Hong Kong to Japan, up 21 per cent over the previous year. Reciprocally, Hong Kong is one of the most popular destinations for Japanese travellers. In fact, Japan is the third-largest source of visitors to Hong Kong among all countries/areas (excluding Mainland China). In 2017, Hong Kong welcomed about 1,230,010 Japanese visitors, a 12.6 per cent leap over the previous year.



Both groups of travelers are fascinated by the attractions of each other's places.

For Hong Kong people, Japan's ancient and modern cities, culture, beautiful scenery, year-round festivals hold an abiding interest. They also enjoy Japanese food, as attested by around 1,310 Japanese restaurants in Hong Kong. Further, with some 10 per cent of Hong Kong couples choosing to get married elsewhere, Japan is a popular wedding and wedding photo (no wedding, just photos) destination.

As more Hong Kong visitors head to Japan for holidays, Asia's world city has unveiled a host of recently developed attractions for Japanese tourists.

Fun city Hong Kong

Hong Kong offers visitors an enthralling experience in a compact, connected, secure

destination.

From high-end shopping malls to bustling street bazaars, ancient Chinese temples to glass-curtained skyscrapers, neon-lit streets to verdant countryside, Hong Kong is a city of colour and contrast, a mesmerising medley of the ancient and ultra-modern, East and West. Beautiful country parks, interesting islands, world heritage geoparks are a short commute from urban areas.



Hiking in Hong Kong.

New Hong Kong appeals

The “Old Town Central” programme highlights the fascinating history of Hong Kong’s Central district. Five self-guided walking routes highlight historical architecture and landmarks, arts and culture, dining outlets and lifestyle boutiques in Central and adjoining Sheung Wan district.

They include Tai Kwun, an old police station compound dating back to 1841 transformed into a new cultural complex. The Dr Sun Yat-sen Historical Trail traces a number of places connected with the great man’s life in Hong Kong. The former Police Married Quarters in Central has been revitalised into PMQ, a hub for design and creative industries, with many facets of historic significance. The programme also covers 100 design galleries and shops in the bustling districts.

Fun for food lovers

With every kind of culinary offering from around the world, including about 1,310 Japanese restaurants, Hong Kong has a well-deserved reputation as a culinary paradise. The 2018 edition of the *Michelin Guide to Hong Kong* features 238 Hong Kong restaurants, ranging from high end dining places to inexpensive street stalls.

Country parks

Hong Kong’s cityscape is world famous but visitors are often surprised to learn that most of the territory is green. In fact, about 40 per cent of Hong Kong is countryside. And it’s all just a short trip from urban areas.

Hong Kong's 24 country parks, featuring a stunning variety of scenery and landscapes, offer some great hikes, camping, picnics and outdoor educational activities. Well-maintained footpaths and country trails provide easy access.

Serious hikers can tackle the MacLehose Trail (100km), Lantau Trail (70km), Hong Kong Trail (50km) and Wilson Trail (78km).



Hong Kong's pristine outdoors offers a break from city life.

Safe city

Hong Kong is one of the world's safest cities, with one of the lowest overall crime rates for a city. Hong Kong ranked fifth among 149 countries and regions surveyed in the "Safety and Security" category in the UK-based Legatum Institute's *Prosperity Index 2017*.

The two-way flow of tourists enhances the friendship between our two peoples.