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Welcome
Welcome to the summer issue of the Localiiz Digest, our collection of the very best articles from our website delivered straight into your hands. As we move into the sunny months ahead, we look forward to exploring the great outdoors in the 852 – whether that means hitting the city’s coolest rooftop bars, throwing an epic junk party at sea (with outrageous pool floats in hand, of course), or kicking back in one of Hong Kong’s quirky staycation getaways.

As always, we hope this issue gives you some great ideas on how to make the most out of living in Hong Kong - after all, that’s what Localiiz is all about. Since we launched in 2012, we’ve become a go-to site for the latest stories and information on what’s going on in our vibrant city.

We publish new articles every day and have garnered more than 70,000 fans on Facebook, as well as a growing number of followers on Instagram and Twitter. We want to thank everyone who has supported us over the past five years and helped make our vision a reality. You’re the best!

Here’s to a fantastic summer in the city!

Sophie Pettit,
Managing Editor
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Show Us Your City - Tag #localiiz
We love nothing more than glimpsing into Hong Kong life through the eyes of our readers. Each week, we enjoy watching hundreds of fabulous shots fill up our Instagram feed as you share your adventure in the 852.

Picking our favourite Snap of the Week is never an easy task with so many action-packed, creative, and striking photos to choose from – all in a bid to win your very own Localiiz umbrella and be featured on our social media. But we have hundreds to give away, so keep tagging your pics with #localiiz and be in with a chance of winning one – you’ll thank us when the next typhoon hits!

Need some creative inspiration? Just take a look at these cracking shots of Hong Kong that earnt a spot in our Snap of the Week album. Happy snapping, readers!

Follow Us
If you like what you read in this magazine, be sure to visit our website, follow us on social media and subscribe to our weekly digest which is jam-packed with all our latest content. You can also join our Facebook group, Expat Hong Kong, to get answers to all those little Hong Kong questions.

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showusyourcity
Save the Date!

WHAT’S ON IN HONG KONG

Don’t miss your chance to grab tickets, register, or sign up for your favourite events in Hong Kong. If you’re looking for something to do this weekend, then catch the best events at http://bit.ly/localiiz-whats-on.

**JULY**

- **HKSAR 20th Anniversary Fireworks Display**
  - July 1
- **Priscilla Chan Live in Macau**
  - July 1
- **Unite Asia Showcase**
  - July 1
- **Secret Pool Party by Aperomix**
  - July 1
- **Brick Lane 7.1 Craft Beer Festival 2017**
  - July 1
- **Stone Nullah Tavern Independence Day Party**
  - July 1
- **Canada Day Celebration**
  - July 1
- **Canada Day Celebration**
  - July 1
- **Canada Day Celebration**
  - July 1
- **Stone Nullah Tavern Independence Day Party**
  - July 1
- **Canada Day Celebration**
  - July 1
- **Canada Day Celebration**
  - July 1
- **Canada Day Celebration**
  - July 1
- **Stone Nullah Tavern Independence Day Party**
  - July 1
- **Gala Concerto Concert**
  - The Banquet
  - July 11
- **Hong Kong Harp Society Presents: Rendezvous**
  - July 12
- **International Military Tattoo**
  - July 13 – 15
- **Central Harbourfront SummerFest: Lifestyle & Social**
  - August 12 - 27
- **DNCE Live in Hong Kong**
  - August 14
- **Hong Kong International Reggae Ska Festival**
  - August 26
- **W Hong Kong Heat Wave Pool Party**
  - August 26
- **The Play That Goes Wrong**
  - September 19 – 24
- **Lets Beach Party**
  - August 19
- **Twisted Donut Junk**
  - August 26
- **Asia Adult Expo**
  - August 29 - 31

**AUGUST**

- **The Simon & Garfunkel Story**
  - August 1
- **Oh Wonder Live in Hong Kong**
  - August 4
- **W Hong Kong Heat Wave Pool Party**
  - August 5
- **Wow & Flutter Presents: The Weekend**
  - August 11, 12, & 13
- **Central Harbourfront SummerFest: Lifestyle & Social**
  - August 12 - 27
- **Central Harbourfront SummerFest: Action**
  - August 13 - 24
- **Central Harbourfront SummerFest: Rendezvous**
  - July 12
- **International Military Tattoo**
  - July 13 – 15
- **Central Harbourfront SummerFest: Action**
  - July 13 – 24
- **W Hong Kong Heat Wave Pool Party**
  - August 26
- **The Play That Goes Wrong**
  - September 19 – 24
- **Lets Beach Party**
  - August 19
- **Twisted Donut Junk**
  - August 26
- **Asia Adult Expo**
  - August 29 - 31

**Shek O Challenge**

Now in its 13th year, the Shek O Challenge returns this July 8, uniting the local community in an epic day of competitive sport in the open water for the chance to win a whopping $5,000. Races include the Classic 2.2km open water swim, run and paddle race, the Half & Half, the Quad Squad, and the 600m Kids Swim for little ones. There will also be an awesome BBQ at Shek O Back Beach for the spectators and those taking part in the action on the day. Register at www.raceresults.com.

**The Simon & Garfunkel Story**

Straight from its sold-out shows in the UK and Europe, The Simon and Garfunkel Story lands at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts on July 29 until August 1. Embark on a journey to fully understand the fascinating story of two young boys from Queens who became the world’s most successful music duo of all time. Beginning in the 1950s, when they were known as the rock n roll duo Tom & Jerry, the show will use a projection screen to feature 1960s photographs and film footage with a full band performing classics such as Mrs Robinson, Homeward Bound, The Sound of Silence, and many more. Grab your tickets now at HKTicketing.

**Hong Kong International Reggae Ska Festival**

Hong Kong’s third International Reggae Festival comes to the city on August 26, bringing a diverse line-up of music from all of Asia’s finest reggae bands, including some local names. Korea’s top reggae band NST & The Soul Sauce will be playing their brand new material, while Beat Bahnhof from Japan will be the festival’s most anticipated act. The event takes place in the heart of the city at PMQ on Aberdeen Street, and tickets can be purchased at Ticketflap.

**BUY TICKETS**
School’s Out for Summer!
Hong Kong’s Best Kids Summer Camps

As part of the famed Hong Kong Institute of Languages, HK Kids Language and Activity summer camps, which are available in five different languages, are the perfect opportunity for your child to benefit from quality language courses while also enjoying themselves. By encouraging your child to enjoy, experience, create, and interact in French, English, German, Spanish and/or Mandarin, these camps boost both communication skills and self-confidence naturally, effectively, and rapidly.

OUTDOORS

Hong Kong Institute of Languages

Ark Eden – Summer Holiday Eco Camps
Summer should be all about getting outdoors and Ark Eden's Summer Holiday Eco Camps encapsulate that. Kids will learn basic outdoor skills as well as discover a newfound respect for nature throughout the day trips as they take part in a range of outdoor adventures like 'Bushcraft & Survival', 'Up in the Tree-house', and 'Chef Camp'. Camps come in three different formats – three-day, five-day, and five-day with one overnight stay.

When: July 3 – August 31
Where: Ark Eden, Mui Wo, Lantau Island
How much: Three-day camp package – $2,050; Five-day camp package – $3,450; Five-day camp package with one overnight stay – $4,200

Treasure Island Group

What could be cooler than sailing on the waves of beautiful Po'ol Beach? Treasure Island Surf Camp invites kids to join them for a week of water-based action, as they learn how to surf like a pro and be safe in the ocean. Surfers aged between 5 and 15 years can join one of three camps, which cater for all levels, mixing beach games, sports, art and crafts, kayaking, hiking, and mountain biking.

When: June 19 – August 25
Where: Po’ol Beach, Lantau (+852) 2546-3543
How much: $3,980 – $4,200

SPORT

BOUNCE
The fun trampoline park’s hugely popular camp returns this summer, inviting 6 to 12 year olds with tonnes of energy to get active in air-bound sessions. In addition to keeping fit, each two-hour session is great for developing muscular control, and is guaranteed to keep them happy! Healthy refreshments and BOUNCE grip socks are included in the fee too.

When: Runs until August 31
Where: BOUNCE! HK, G/F, EMAX, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay (+852) 2556 9555
How much: $500 per day, $450 per day if you book a complete week

Rumple and Friends
Hong Kong’s favourite clown and his troupe of zany pals are offering one of the most fun summer camps in the city at Rumple’s Big Top Academy. There are four courses to choose from – Magic and Circus, Dinosaurs and Mini Monsters, Explorers and Adventures, and Pirates and Mermaids. Budding circus performers aged between 3 and 10 will learn the art of puppetry, acro-balancing, circus tricks, and teamwork. Plus, there’s a showcase at the end of each course so parents can see what they’ve learnt.

When: June 26 – August 25
Where: Kiu On Commercial Building, 5/F, 49-51 Jervis St, Sheung Wan
How much: $2,500 – $3,000

CREATIVE

Creative Coding
Creative Coding Invites kids to master coding through robotics with two camps on offer: Creative Coding with BloBox for 6 to 16 year olds, and S.M.A.R.T (Science, Maths, Art, Robotics, and Technology), for those aged between 5 and 7 who wish to combine art and craft with science and technology. The camps will be held at five different centres, so check below to find one near you.

When: June 26 – September 1, (3-hour camps, times vary depending on location)
Where: Locations in Wanchai, Happy Valley, Kowloon and HK at various centres
How much: Day camp fee is $3,300 (BloBox and stem kit $700) Multi-camp discount: extra 2 camps at get $500 off, extra 3 camps at get $1,000 off

Faust International Youth Theatre
After receiving over 900 applications for last year’s summer camps, Faust has added the arts into its 2017 by expanding its summer program to include the popular one-week courses at its New Discover Bay and Ho Man Tin locations (as well as its Shaung Wan based). There are two courses on offer this year – Creative Writing and Summer Theatre, so kids can improve their acting or their writing.

When: June 26 to July 26 (10am – 12.30pm, 2pm – 4pm)
Where: Shaw Wn – Nan Dao Commercial Building, 359-361 Queen’s Road Central, Discovery Bay – Discovery Bay International School, Discovery Bay Kowloon – George V School, 2 Tin Kwong Road, Ho Man Tin
How much: $2,960

More School

Safari Kids
This massive, 3,300 square foot play school’s Safari Summer Adventure camps seek to unlock the imaginations of kids with a wild side. There are three different groups – Safari Explorers Playgroup (12 months – 24 months), Safari Adventures (2 – 7 years) and Safari Rangers (3 years – 6 years) offering activities like football, music, Mandarin, arts and crafts, science and drama, and cooking.

When: July 3 – 28
Where: L101, Chi Fu Landmark, Chi Fu Fa Yuen, Pok Fu Lam
How much: $1,680 per course; $100 discount per workshop (discounts available for booking more than one)

Baking

Complete Deelite
The baking maestros have cooked up some special workshops this summer for budding mini-chefs. Kids can choose to create Unicorn Cake Pops and Cupcakes, Ice Cream Drip Cake, and Safari Inside Cupcakes (or all three with a discount). Each class provides all the tools and guidance they require to make a professional looking cake, cupcakes, and poppy to show off to mum and dad.

When: July 4 – August 21
Where: 9/F, On Lan Centre, 11-15 On Lan Street, Central
How much: $165 per workshop (discounts available for booking more than one)

Lego Education
Budding builders will love the LEGO Education Summer Workshops. Four age groups, catering for 3 to 10 year olds, can attend these colourful, hands-on sessions at various locations across Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories. The beauty of this learning approach is that it gives you an insight into your child’s mind as they replicate their understanding of the world in LEGO form.

When: July 3 – August 28
Where: Locations vary, (+852) 2904 6883
How much: $1,680 per course; $100 discount per workshop (discounts available for booking more than one)

www.legoeducation.com

School’s done for another year, the kids are at home, and they’re bored, but it doesn’t have to be this way. Summer is a great opportunity for your little ones to expand their skill sets, nurture their passions, and most importantly, have fun. We check out the best summer camps around that will do just that.

Words by Graham Turner

DANCE

Twinkle Dance Company
This summer, the popular ballet school is offering a dizzying array of options across every age group. Workshops include things like Ballet Princess, Ballet Variation, and even a trip to Hong Kong Ballet for a backstage tour. They also have classes that incorporate music as well as dance. Down in Aberdeen the camp is also running a summer camp for kids with special needs.

When: July 2 – August 26
Where: Aberdeen, Central, Kennedy Town, North Point, and Wan Chai, (+852) 6608 6689
How much: $2,240 – $2,520

Twinkledance.com/programs/summer-dance
Bars Under the Stars: 12 Best Rooftop Bars in Hong Kong

Words by Sophie Pettit

The sun is shining, the weather is sweet – perfect time to hit the roof! One of the best things about living in Hong Kong is being able to sip on a cocktail (or three) at one of the city’s many amazing rooftop bars. So why not take wining and dining to new heights and head to one of these fabulous hangouts?

1. Wooloomooloo

Fancy a steak with your view? We can’t think of a better spot to tuck into some juicy beef than this dazzling 31st floor bar in the heart of Wan Chai. With its jaw-dropping views, comfy lounge seating, and soft lighting, Wooloomooloo is an ideal spot to soak up the city vibes with a refreshing glass of vino and a delicious cut. Don’t be put off by its location though – despite being in busy Wan Chai, this popular spot has a much more relaxed atmosphere than other rooftop bars in the city – and a pretty good view of Happy Valley Racecourse too!

Wooloomooloo, 31/F & Rooftop The Hennessy, 256 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, (+852) 2893 6960 www.wooloomooloo.com.hk/wan-chai

2. Sevva

Undoubtedly home to one of the best views of Hong Kong’s dazzling skyline and (if you get your timing right) the Symphony of Lights Laser Show, Sevva (pictured left) boasts an outdoor restaurant terrace that oozes sophistication. Scattered with illuminated furniture and cushioned couches fit for royalty, this popular venue takes glamour to a whole new level. Perfect for schmoozing clients, impressing guests, or celebrating a very special occasion, this stylish hot spot boasts some of the finest signature cocktails in Hong Kong, served alongside top-notch fusion cuisine. Life doesn’t get much better than this!

Sevva, 25/F Prince’s Building, 10 Chater Road, Central, (+852) 2537 1288 www.sevva.hk

3. Sugar

If you’re looking to escape the hustle and bustle of central Hong Kong, but still want a killer view, then slip away to this slick rooftop bar on the eastern end of the island. Located on the 32nd floor of the EAST Hotel, Sugar boasts an enormous outdoor terrace, comfy lounge chairs, and some pretty chic cocktails to boot. What could be sweeter than sipping on an Georgia Bellini while relaxing to some electronic beats and lapping up the breathtaking views of North Point, Quarry Bay, and Tai Tam?

Sugar, 32/F, East Hotel, 29 Tai Koo Shing Road, Tai Koo, (+852) 9683 3738 www.sugar-hongkong.com

4. Isobar

The prime location and spectacular views of Victoria Harbour make the spacious outdoor terrace of Isobar an alfresco must-go. Located within Iola Bar & Grill at the IFC, this venue is one of the best rooftop bars in Hong Kong to offer waterfront open-air dining. Sorge yourself on authentic Italian bites (the thin-crust pizzas are a delight), grab a glass of something chilled, and watch the sun set over the city in this chic, Mediterranean hideaway.

Isobar, Shop 2071- 2079, 7/F & 4011, Level 3 & 4, IFC Mall, Central, (+852) 2383 5401 www.gaiagroup.com.hk/restaurant

5. Armani/Prive

Rooftops don’t come much sleeker than this. The brainchild of fashion icon Giorgio Armani and Aqua Restaurant Group, Armani/Prive screams ‘exclusive’. Dress to Impress and strut your stuff on the 5,000-square-foot terrace and you’ll feel like you just stepped on to the catwalk. A combination of chic lounge sofas, warm wooden decking, and jaw-dropping views of the city’s electric skyline promise to make this one of the most stylish nights on the town. Try the signature Ginger Storm or Kaffir Margarita and float off to some blissfully mellow beats under the stars.

Armani/Prive, 2/F Chater House, 8 Connaught Road Central, (+852) 3583 2828 www.armaniprive-hk.com

6. CÉ LA VI

For a night of pure glamour, venture to the top of California Tower in bustling Lan Kwai Fong and mingle with the city’s most glamorous party-goers at CÉ LA VI’s Sky Deck. This high-class hangout has attracted a storm of attention since opening its doors in 2015, and it’s not hard to see why. Come sundown, the city’s glitterati flock to the terrace to lap up the stunning 360-degree view of Hong Kong skyline and kick back to some funky beats. With top DJs spinning Ibiza style house music every weekendnight from 6pm, and Cuban Nights bringing Latin beats to the roof every Tuesday, this is the perfect spot to unwind and enjoy two-for-one cocktails during the daily Sundowner Sessions from 3pm until 9pm.

CÉ LA VI, 25/F California Tower, 32 D’Aguilar Street, Central, (+852) 3700 2300 www.hk.celavi.com/rooft-terrace

7. Honi Honi

Step out on to the lush, green, tropical terrace at Honi Honi and you’ll feel a million miles away from Hong Kong’s urban jungle. Located in the heart of the city on Welling- ton Street, this cheeky tiki terrace is the perfect spot to kick back to some live tribal beats and escape the metropolis. Honi Honi boasts perhaps the most expansive list of rums imaginable, and more than enough deliciously exotic Polynesian-themed cocktails to get you in the summer spirit. Be warned though, they’re devilishly moreish... how could anyone resist a Honi Honi Kiss?

Honi Honi, 3/F Somptex Central, 52 Wellington Street, Central, (+852) 2353 0885 www.hk.celavi.com/rooft-terrace
Where else could you find peanut butter, Myers’ dark rum, and a whole quail’s egg in your cocktail glass? The Pirate’s Breakfast is one of many creative concoctions to be found on the menu at this stylish little getaway.

Duddell’s is the perfect venue for anyone with an appetite for imaginative cocktails and a love of nature, because the real star attraction is the lush 2,200 square-foot Garden Terrace. Leafy plants and comfortable, cushioned seating transform the area into a serene, green paradise in the heart of the urban sprawl. What better location to enjoy your magical mixture among great company? Wicked!

Duddell’s, 3/F & 4/F, Shanghai Tang Mansion, 1 Duddell Street, Central, (+852) 2525 9191 www.duddells.co

With stunning panoramic views of Hong Kong Island, and front row seats to the Symphony of Lights Laser Show, Eyebar earns a well-deserved spot on our list of the best rooftop bars the city has to offer. Of course, the range of gorgeous and sophisticated cocktails available on the menu helps too – who wouldn’t love sipping on a Suzie Wrong on the huge 30th floor terrace atop the iSquare Shopping Mall? If you’re more of a beer or martini drinker, then head there for Sunset Hour on weekday nights and enjoy hefty discounts on your favourite tipple.

Eyebar, 30th Floor, iSquare Shopping Mall, 63 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, (+852) 2487 3988 www.elite-concepts.com/en/EYB

Lined with sleek sofas, high tables, and round-booth seating, this 1,800 square-foot outdoor terrace is ideal for larger alfresco gatherings, be it social or corporate. Crowning the L Place on Queen’s Road Central, Shore boasts extensive space to enjoy a breath of fresh air and some relaxing downtime in the city.

And with a classic list of cocktails, mocktails, and wines, there’s a tipple to tantalise all taste buds as you relax in the ambient atmosphere of this urban oasis. They do a pretty kickass Sunday brunch too (turn to page 20 to find out more).

Shore, 3/F & 4/F The L. Place, 139 Queen’s Road Central, (+852) 2915 1638 www.shore.com.hk

Shore

Eyebar

The Envoy

This funky little Hollywood Road hideout has certainly earned a reputation that lives up to its motto, ‘Eat, drink, and be prosperous’. Fu Lu Shou provides a perfectly chilled outdoor terrace on which to munch on some western-style China Town faves and sip on some creatively cool cocktails – Sesame Prawn Toast and a Suzie Wong Does Hong Kong anyone?

Decorated with colourful, inviting lounge furniture, the terrace creates the perfect setting for chilling out with colleagues or friends, and is cozy enough to make you feel like you’re hanging out at someone’s apartment. The air of intimacy is added to by the well-hidden location and the need-to-know door code which changes frequently. Sounds pretty hipster, right? Well it is, but we still love it, so call ahead, get those magic digits, and let yourself in on this quirky little secret.

Fu Lu Shou, 7/F, 31 Hollywood Road, Central, (+852) 2336 8812
www.facebook.com/FuLuShouHK
Junk Boat Companies for an Epic Party at Sea

Words by Sophie Petit

The wait is finally over and junk season is upon us! But as fabulous as parties at sea can be, organising them can be a chore when you have to consider when and where to go and which junk company to use. Luckily, we’ve done all the groundwork for you with our ultimate guide to junking, so all you have to do is pick one that fits your needs and budget, round up all your buddies, and climb aboard for an epic party at sea. Just make sure you get in there quick, because these junks get snapped up fast.

1. Hong Kong Yachting

If you want to really wild this junk season, invite Tarzan and Jungle Jane (pictured below) to your party. These two charming yachts from Hong Kong Yachting come with an inflatable slide, Twister game, bean bag lounge, and king sun beds, making this one of the best entertainment junks around. With the choice of a delicious BBQ buffet cooked on board, or a Thai and fusion menu, along with unlimited beer, wine, spirits, and sangria, you definitely won’t go hungry or thirsty. Larger parties with up to 100 people can even get the hot couple together and have them anchored side by side with a special connecting bridge to allow guests to enjoy double junking. Why have one when you can have two?

When: 10:30am - 5:30pm / 7pm - 11pm
Depart: Central or Aberdeen
Destination: HK Island, Lamma Island, and Clearwater bay
How much: $480 per person for traditional Junk, or $850 per person for Tarzan or Jane
Extras: $3,800 for speedboat with wake board, $3,200 for banana boat, $3,500 for water skis, and $1,500 – $1,800 for Thai massage / $350 for stand up paddle board rental
Capacity: Tarzan max 55 / Jungle Jane max 45
Hong Kong Yachting, (+852) 2526 0151
www.hongkongyachting.com

2. Saffron Cruises

Saffron Cruises offers a huge selection of junks and luxury yachts at different prices, with food and drink packages to suit all needs and budgets. If you’re looking to tailor make your party, this is a good option to go for. Choose either the buffet menu or canapé menu – provided by Shamrock Catering – and wash it all down with either the beer and wine, or Champagne and cocktails package. Added treats such as a banana boat, wake board, and speed boat come at an additional price.

When: 10am - 6pm / 7pm - 11pm
Depart: Aberdeen, Central, Tsim Sha Tsui, Causeway Bay, Wan Chai, Stanley, and Sai Kung
Destination: Lamma Island, Stanley, Sai Kung, Long Kee Wan, Tai Long Wan, Po O on Lantau Island, Shang Shu, Clearwater Bay and Ninping island
How much: $3,200 for banana boat, water skis and wake board rental
Capacity: Minimum 14 / maximum 40
Saffron Cruises, (+852) 2857 1311
www.saffron-cruises.com

3. Jaspa’s Junks

With six junks all decked out with a fully-equipped kitchen, and freshly-made food, drink, and super friendly staff to keep your glass topped up all day, it’s no surprise that Jaspa’s Junks has made a name for itself. There are packages to fit every theme and budget, with some lovely little touches thrown in for good measure – who doesn’t love having plastic bottles of cocktails thrown at them while they’re hobbling around in an inflatable doughnut? The Western-style menu has plenty to satisfy all taste buds, including Greek salad, nachos, chicken satay, beef tenderloin, grilled chicken breast, and salmon. Just make sure you leave room for Jaspa’s famous mud chocolate cake which they serve in the afternoon – the perfect treat to wash down with unlimited beer, wine, spirits, cider, and prosecco. Feeling adventurous? Why not throw a banana boat and some water skis into the mix for an additional cost?

When: 10:30am - 5:30pm
Depart: Aberdeen and Sai Kung
Destination: Stanley, Deep Water Bay, Lamma Island, Clearwater Bay, Millionaire’s Beach, and Snake Bay
How much: All inclusive from $650, boat only from $7,000, drinks packages from $650
Extras: $4,500 for banana boat and wake board rental / $4,000 for DJ rental
Capacity: Minimum 15 / maximum 40
Jaspa’s Junks, (+852) 2792 6001
www.castleconceptskms.com/our-venues/jaspa039s-junks

4. Hong Kong Junks

With a small fleet of junks named Swissy, Wet Dreams, and Wreckless, you know you’re in for a good time with Hong Kong Junks. With a range of packages on offer, including an all-inclusive option with unlimited food and drink, this company is one of the best for variety and meeting any budget. Junkies can choose one of two set food menus (one standard and one premium), which feature goodies such as piri-piri chicken, Australian rib eye, and canapés, or opt for a menu prepared by the Butchers Club – sausages as sea anyone? There are also two drinks packages to choose from, with banana boats, wake boarding, and your own private DJ available as add-ons. They even have a mini bus pick-up from Central for an additional cost. These guys really have thought of everything!

When: 10am – 6pm / 7pm – 11pm
Depart: Aberdeen, Central, Tsim Sha Tsui, Causeway Bay, and Discovery Bay
How much: $3,500 for banana boat, wake board, and Prosecco. Feeling adventurous? Why not add some water skiing in for good measure – who doesn’t love having plastic bottles of cocktails thrown at them while they’re hobbling around in an inflatable doughnut?
Capacity: Minimum 14 / maximum 40
Hong Kong Junks, (+852) 2840 1588
www.new.hongkongjunks.com.hk

5. Island Junks

If you’re looking for flexibility then Island Junks has the answer. They offer several different menu options including Western, Thai, and picnic hampers from Maison Eric Kayser, as well as packages which include menus at Lamma and Po Toi Island. Free-flow beer, wine, spirits, and cocktails are included in the cost, so this is a great option for those who love to scoff as much as they drink, and the generous staff will even throw Prosecco, Nespresso coffee, and chocolate brownies into the mix. There are several packages available every day and evening, and additional treats on offer such as Thai massage, stand up paddle boarding, and speed boat hire with banana boat and wake board. With pick-up and drop-off pretty much anywhere you desire, and all destinations available, the world really is your oyster. As well as their regular junks, ask them about their new ultimate party boat, IBIZA, which comes with a big sound system, floating beanbags, and inflatable sea pool.

When: 10.30am - 5.30pm / 6.30 - 10.30pm
Depart: Aberdeen, Stanley, Discovery Bay, Central, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kwan Tong, and Causeway Bay
Destination: Anywhere you like, includes Sai Kung, Clearwater Bay, Lantau Island, Po Toi Island, and Lamma Island.
How much: $400 - $650 per person
Extras: Extra: $3,500 for a banana boat, speedboat, wake board rental / $1,500 - $1,800 for Thai massage / $350 for stand up paddle board rental
Capacity: Maximum 50 people
Island Junks, (+852) 2877 5222
www.islandjunks.com.hk

6. Koh Thai Junk

If you want to tingle your taste buds during a day at sea then let Koh Thai Junks take care of business. With seven Thai dishes on offer, including spicy papaya salad, pad thai, and green curry chicken, as well as unlimited beer, wine, spirits, and cocktails, this is the perfect option for those who love food with a kick. They’ll also throw in some delicious
sharing platters and chocolate brownies. There are two packages available for Sat- urday and Sunday, and additional treats on offer such as a banana boat, speed boat, wake board, and water skis. With pick-ups and drop-offs from three different locations, and four different destinations to head to, you won’t be short on choice.

When: 10am – 6pm / 7pm – 11pm
Departs: Central, Tsim Sha Tsui, and Causeway Bay
Destination: Sai Kung, Clearwater Bay, Millionaire’s Beach, and Tai Long Wan (additional fuel charge $1,200)
How much: $499 on weekdays; $680 for Saturday; $580 for Sunday (all-inclusive)
Extras: $3,800 for banana boat, speed boat, wake board and water skis rental
Capacity: Saturday – minimum 25, maximum 40 / Sunday – minimum 20, maximum 40
Koh Thai Junk; (+852) 6376 1012 www.kohtai.com.hk

7. Viking Charters
Whether you want to travel in luxury or cruise in style, Viking Charters has a boat with your name on it. Climb aboard the Deluxe Pleasure Craft, set sail on the GRP Pleasure Cruiser, or keep it old school with the Chinese Pleasure Junk. Choose one of ten different catering menus or simply bring your own food and drink – great if you’re on a budget. If you want to spice things up a bit, throw a banana boat, water skis, and wake board into the mix for an additional cost. Just note that the boat rental costs vary depending on the size of the boat, time of year you book it, and catering package you choose, so it’s best to call the Vikings first to get a quote.

When: 10am – 6pm / 7pm – 11pm
Departs: Central, Tsim Sha Tsui, and Causeway Bay
Destination: Sai Kung, Victoria Harbour, Clearwater Bay, and Lamma Island
How much: $10,000 up for Deluxe Pleasure Craft / $4,000 up for GRP Pleasure Cruiser / $4,500 up for Chinese Pleasure Junk
Catering – packages range from $100 – $300 per head
Extras: $3,000 for speed boat, wake board and banana boat rental
Viking Charters; (+852) 2814 9899 www.vikingscharters.com.hk

8. Lazydays
For a more sophisticated, family-friendly junk boat party, look no further than Lazydays. With cheeseboards and fruit platters featuring on the all-inclusive menu, and an infant paddling pool, karaoke machine, and X-box making an appearance on board, this is a great option for mature junkies or those with little ones. In an attempt to avoid the crowds at sea, the captain will offer to take you to quieter, more remote locations where you can relax and unwind with delicious food (think roast beef, veggies, lasagne, and sweet cakes) and free-flow drinks – Prosecco anyone! But if you do want to “live thing things up a bit, the banana boat, wake board, and speed boat are on hand for an additional cost.

When: 10.30 – 5.30pm (flexible) / 7pm – 11pm
Departs: Central, Aberdeen, and Causeway Bay
Destination: Quieter locations such as Ninepin Island, Cheung Chau Island, and Turtle Cove on Lamma Island
How much: $790 – $1,175 per person (all-inclusive)
Extras: $4,000 for banana boat, wake board, and speed boat rental
Capacity: 32 – 50 people
Lazydays; (+852) 3488 1534 www.lazydays.com.hk

9. Delicious HK
Living up to its name, Delicious HK offers a big buffet on board one of three junk boats – the Chinese Wooden Brown, and two Western White Cruisers which vary in size. You can either opt for the standard catering package, which includes a lunch buffet with unlimited beer, wine, and cocktails, or upgrade to the premium package, which includes free-flow Prosecco, throw in a banana boat and wake board, and you have yourself one epic junk boat party.

When: 10am – 6pm / 7pm – 11pm
Departs: Central, Aberdeen, Causeway Bay, and Tsim Sha Tsui
Destination: Sai Kung, Tai Long Wan (additional fuel charge $900), Clearwater Bay, Lamma Island, Stanley, and Shek O
How much: $5,500 – $10,300
Extras: $3,600 for wake board and banana boat rental
Capacity: 20 – 55 people
Delicious HK; (+852) 2559 0144 www.delicious-hk.com/junkpackages

10. Michelangelo
If you want to experience junking in ultimate luxury, then this is it. Michelangelo (pictured above) is a fully restored eighty-foot classic motor yacht which can accommodate up to 59 passengers over three decks, making this the swankiest of them all. While it’s certainly not cheap to hire, it really is a stunning option for day, evening, or overnight boating, and perfect for celebrating special occasions. Enjoy cocktails and canapés, seated dinners, and buffet dining, or organise your own catering as you kick back and relax in 4,000 square feet of space, including teak sun decks, a mahogany panelled living room, dining room, sumptuous master suite, four additional guest cabins, full kitchen – the list goes on. We can already hear the Titanic theme tune playing – just be thankful there are no icebergs in Hong Kong!

When: 10am – 6pm / 7pm – 11pm
Departs: Central, Aberdeen, Stanley, and Hebe Haven
Destination: Clearwater Bay, Sai Kung Bay, and Tai Long Wan
How much: $24,000 – $37,000 boat hire / Catering – $420 – $750 per person
Extras: They have a list of DJs, photographers, and mixologists they can recommend
Capacity: Maximum 59
Michelangelo; (+852) 6621 1691 www.michelangelocruises.com
10 Amazing Pool Floats You Need on Your Junk this Summer

Is it a bird, is it a plane, is it a - pretzel? At last, summer is finally here, giving us the perfect excuse to ride the waves on some of the most outrageous pool floats we can get our sweaty little hands on. If there’s one accessory you need to bring on your next junk party, it’s one of these beauties, so go on, treat yourself, your friends will thank you – and so will your Instagram feed! Float on...

Words by Sophie Petit

1. Rubber Duckie
You’re never too old for your rubber duckie! Be the coolest chick in town aboard this delightfully ridiculous hipster duck. Just look how much fun she’s having in the picture – that could be you! Get in there quick as there are only five left in stock (girl not included).

How much: $499
Size: 310 x 200 cm

2. Cheesy Pizza
Our little stomachs are rumbling just looking at this delicious floaty. Drift away on this cheesy slice of pepperoni and mush-rooms … there’s plenty of room goodness and make your friends well jel.

How much: HK$520
Size: 180 x 150 cm

3. Magical Unicorn
What could be more magical than floating in the ocean on a beautiful mythical creature? This enchanting floaty is every Instagrammer’s dream – no wonder it’s been taking the internet by storm! Grab one for yourself and hop on board to take the ultimate summer selfie. She’s big enough to carry two, so why not take a friend with you?

Where: Get Floaty, www.getfloaty.com
How much: $772
Size: 244 x 105 x 110 cm

4. Scrumptious Pretzel
These savoury treats are selling like hot cakes, and at the time of writing there are only 20 left in stock at Pool Float! The giant scrump- tious pretzel is every carb lover’s dream and definitely won’t be getting soggy in the water. With plenty of room for three, it’s also a great addition to any pool or junk party. Get in there quick and get your carb fix!

How much: $150
Size: 150 x 140 cm

5. Fried Lobster
Nothing beats a serving of classy seafood at sea. Our own personal favourite, this cheeky crustacean will guarantee to bring heaps of laughs to your junk party as you attempt to straddle him without looking like a hot mess. Come on now, don’t be selfish … there’s plenty of room for two!

Where: Fu Chong Toys, 14 Tai Yuen Street, Wan Chai (near Wan Chai market)
How much: $299 (original price: $349)
Size: 150 x 150 cm

6. Cool Me Down Popsicle
You’ll feel as cool as ice floating atop this rainbow coloured beauty, which comes in at a bargain $78. If you want to add a splash of colour to your junk party without spending a fortune, then this is a winner. Why not go ahead and buy a few – you don’t want to make everyone jealous now!

Where: Fu Chong Toys, 14 Tai Yuen Street, Wan Chai (near Wan Chai market)
How much: $78
Size: 70 x 30.5 inches

7. Blue Seashell
Darling, it’s better under the sea! Live out your wildest Little Mermaid fantasies atop this beautiful mythical seashell. While we can’t guar-antee an enchanting voice, treasures untold, or a dashing prince to save you, we do guarantee you’ll be an alluring sight for your friends to behold.

Where: Get Floaty, www.getfloaty.com
How much: $607.45 (available in pink or blue)
Size: 312 x 127 x 50 cm

8. Flippin’ Fantastic
It wouldn’t be summer without a giant inflatable flip flop. What could be more fun that slipping into this comfortable floaty and lapping up the rays in the ocean? We know - buying a pair so you can take a friend with you!

Where: Amazon, www.amazon.com
How much: US$20.99 (around HK$165)
Size: 71 x 18 inches

9. Majestic Swan
Sometimes, you just can’t go wrong with a classic. This majestic beauty has led the way for many outrageous pool floats to follow, but that doesn’t mean she’s lost her charm. Just take you under her wing as you sit pretty and swan around the water like the magical princess you are!

Where: Amazon, www.amazon.com
How much: US$20.99 (around HK$165)
Size: 71 x 18 inches

10. Jaws
If you think swans are too girly then maybe this bad boy will float your boat. Be king of the ocean with this wickedly cool floaty which comes with sturdy handles to keep you firmly clung on for an action-packed adventure at sea, as well as a cup holder to keep your beer intact. Just imagine all the fun you could have scaring your buds.

Where: Get Floaty, www.getfloaty.com
How much: $238
Size: 182 x 41 inches

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Greetings from Hong Kong!

Top 5 Staycations

Words by Billy Clarke

Need a break but can’t face the hassle of boarding a plane this summer? Not a problem. In a city as diverse as Hong Kong, there are plenty of places to recharge your batteries. From bubble homes to luxury rooms, and glamping to bathtubs with a view, freelance writer and explorer Billy Clarke has you covered.

The Hong Kong heat has arrived in all its scorching glory, and while the privileged are getting ready to jet off to exotic locales on their summer recess, the majority of us are still in the city labouring through the warmth. However, hope springs eternal in the form of the stay-at-home city vacation. So screw the glamping to bathtubs with a view, freelance writer and explorer Billy Clarke has you covered.

1. The Surrealist: Mingle Farm

Staycations are all about breaking the norm and embracing the unusual, and this place takes quirkiness to a whole new level. As Hong Kong’s ‘glamping’ specialists, Mingle Farm is definitely at the more glamorous end of the camping spectrum, offering guests the chance to not only camp out in the wilderness under the stars, but to do so in an inflatable bubble! Each giant igloo tent (Aecosphere) comes fully equipped with sky-lights, blow-up mattresses, towels, toiletries, and air-conditioning. There’s also a special dining bubble, a double bubble with a lounge and bar, with plasma screens for watching the big match. Other accommodation offerings include caravans, a bouncy castle, tennis courts, and a spa with a sauna and hydrotherapy pools.

TOP TIPS!
• Book well in advance
• The beach is just a short walk away
• There is a large swimming pool

2. The Nature Loving Outdoor Enthusiast: Sai Yuen Farm

A good staycation is spent doing something new and different, and in our urban jungle there is no better way to do this than by getting back in touch with nature. For a dose of greenery and fresh air, why not try camping in a Teepee or a Safari-style tent for a weekend? Yes, you read that right. While it may be hard to believe, there are campites and places that offer tents for rent in Hong Kong – and, no, we aren’t referring to camping out for the latest iPhone.

Sai Yuen Farm is a 400,000 square-foot landscaped private lot on the island of Cheung Chau, with a large, picturesque, outdoor pond which offers a variety of camping options and activities. They have Mongolian Yurts, sizeable Teepees, Safari-style tents, and futuristic-looking dome structures which are great for star-gazing. Each come with double-air-beds, bedding, and air conditioners as well as camping tables and chairs. Activities include rock climbing, boating, fishing, biking, and skateboarding – there are even Segways available and, er... goats too.

TOP TIPS!
• There is fast and slow Cheung Chau Ferries.
• While the fast ones are obviously quicker, they aren’t recommended for seasick travelers.
• Need to use communal toilets outside for the bubble tents.

3. The Explorative Sojourner: L’Hotel Island South

A staycation is ultimately a way to experience your city in a way you haven’t done before, and plenty of hotels have been opening up in interesting gentrifying neighbourhoods around town recently, such as this sleek property is located in the revitalised Southside of Hong Kong. Situated on the edge of the fast-developing Wong Chuk Hang district, L’Hotel Island South is perfectly poised to take advantage of all the curiosities this redeveloped area has to offer. A smattering of art galleries, boutiques, private kitchens, and bars have recently sprung up across the old district, with Ocean Park and some of Hong Kong’s most scenic beaches also sitting right on its doorstep.

TOP TIPS!
• Get a higher floor with a view of the tranquil mountains some far-removed hotel.
• Get a higher floor with a view of the tranquil mountains some far-removed hotel.

4. The Design Savvy: Upper House

For the ultimate in-town getaway, indulge in an overnight stay at Upper House, a slick Asian-influenced hotel which is quite unlike any other in the city. This award-winning boutique hotel features an aesthetically pleasing fusion of natural light, modish wooden fittings, and well-planned fittings – all stylishly arranged with respect to balanced geometry and symmetry. Organic-looking materials, original oriental sculptural installations, and seamlessly-proportioned spaces come together to create a well-designed delight for the senses. Relaxing is the name of the game here, and they even have an online check-in and check-out service, which bypasses conventional registration queues completely. Room service can also be called with the in-room iPod touch, which features hotel information and more. Although you might not want to leave your limestone-clad bath and escape your spacious minimalist room, Café Gray Deluxe is a hotel highlight that cannot be missed. Along with a unique selection of European classics are served up in sophisticated surroundings that feature bespoke furniture and cool bamboo lights.

TOP TIPS!
• Need to use communal toilets outside for the bubble tents.
• Need to use communal toilets outside for the bubble tents.
• Need to use communal toilets outside for the bubble tents.

5. The Tech Addict: EAST

While it is important to unplug and unwind on a staycation, there are those of us for whom this is impossible (business owners, freelancers, and Pokemon GO addicts). If you need to be connected while you simultaneously untravel, EAST is where it’s at. It’s a distinctive business hotel masquerading as an urban resort, providing a perfect balance of well-appointed luxury and quality leisureliness.

TOP TIPS!
• Check out their ‘7 Wonders of EAST’ package offering room rates add-ons for two consecutive nights with plenty of benefits
• Suss out the Hong Kong Film Archive and the Fireboat Alexander Graham Exhibition Gallery, both of which are just minutes away from the hotel

EAST, 29 Taikoo Shing Road, Tai Shing, Hong Kong, (+852) 2968 3968
From Snickers flavoured cocktails to exotic free-flow brunches, and airport themed concept bars to freshly served sushi with a view, this summer is all about indulgence. We feast our way through the city to find you the hottest new food and drink offers on offer this season.

Words by Sophie Pettit

**New on the Menu:**
**Restaurants, Bars, and Brunches**

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**Saturday Brunch at Olé Spanish Restaurant**
There’s a reason this legendary Spanish eatery has remained a Central landmark for the past 18 years – the food is amazing! If you love tapas in a romantic and authentic setting, then head to Olé Spanish Restaurant and Wine Bar on a Saturday and tuck into its newly-launched brunch which invites you to feast on a 16-course menu of the utmost tapas. Classic Spanish Omelet, Sizzling Garlic Prawns, Sautéed Chorizo with Garlic and Chives, and Traditional Spanish Seafood Paella among some of the delights to enjoy in this intimate setting. And if that wasn’t enough to lure you through the rustic arched alcoves of this hidden gem, then surely one of the three free-flow drink options will. $380 for adults; $228 for kids (free-flow options: juice and soft drinks - $88 / Cava and Sangria – $150 / White wine, red wine, Cava, and Sangria – $180)

**Runway Concept Bar**
Bringing the Japanese cuisine of robatayaki (or cooking over hot charcoal) to the city, Akikan Robatayaki is the latest restaurant to land in Causeway Bay. Hiroshima-born executive chef Kenji has come all the way from Japan to bring us a selection of the finest possible robata – and we can confirm it’s delicious. 12-14 Wing Fung Street, Wan Chai, (+852) 2455 2499, www.legaronsaigon.com Every weekday, (12pm – 2.30pm) $188 per person

**New Banh Mi at Le Petit Saigon**
Calling all Bahn Mi lovers. New takeaway Le Petit Saigon (next to big brother Le Garçon Saigon) is opening its doors to offer lunchtime diners the authentic Vietnamese sandwich for $88 a pop – and we can confirm it’s delicious. Made with freshly baked French bread (so the crispy on the outside, soft on the inside varie), these tasty delights are bursting with five different kinds of pork, (from shredded and belly to fromage de tête and pork floss), chilli for heat, pickles for acidity and crunch, coriander and shallots for herbaceous freshness, and pâté and mayonnaise for richness. While the portions are very generous, be prepared to walk away with sticky fingers and covered in crumbs as the bread is super crispy and the fillings are prone to exploding in all directions. A great lunch-on-the-run option if you’re in the area, but get in there quick as these babies will be served daily from noon until they run out.

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**New Lunch Menu at Le Garçon Saigon**
The hip Vietnamese joint is expanding its offering to include a new set lunch menu on weekdays from 12 noon to 2.30pm. For $188 per person, you can feast on Green Papaya Salad and Vermicelli Noodles Banh Bowls which come in generously sized portions. If you’re a meat lover, be sure to order the delicious Mayura Beef Tri-Tip (pictured) or the Kurobuta Pork Belly to fromage de tête and pork floss), chilli and this one takes it to a whole new level (see what we did there?). Runway is the newest kid on the block, bringing a whole load of yutz to Wyndham Street. Created to bring the theme of travel to the city’s nightlife, the 1950s vintage flight concept bar offers guests a unique in-flight experience with touches of the motif throughout. The entrance displays a table created from plane wings while propellers and metal structures adorn the venue, which features aircraft windows in its design. Setting out to present cocktails that amplify global flavors while staying true to local taste, the menu includes its signature Singapore; One Mile At A Time cocktail, a new take on the classic Singapore Sling. On the food side, passengers can feast on ‘classics’ from eight different countries, including Chicken Bahn Mi from Vietnam, Wing Flaps, Pide Beef from Turkey, and Crispy White Fish Fillet inspired by our very own Hong Kong. Happy Hour is held every day of the week from 3pm to 8pm (and all day on Sunday). Enter via the entrance at Wyndham Tower, 33 Wyndham Street, Central, (+852) 2830 6166, www.willy-bloom.com $188 per person

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**New Cocktails & Bar Food at Lily & Bloom**
We’ve always loved Lily & Bloom for its epic happy hour deals, and now we have another reason – ten gorgeous new cocktails created by new head mixologist, John Nugent. Tasting just as decadent as they look, the delicious tips add an original twist to legendary classics that match the vibrancy of Hong Kong, such as the super Instagrammable Coffee & Cigarettes (£120 - Nugent’s answer to the espresso martini, which combines apple-smoked bourbon, Dictator Caffe-infused rum, and cold drip coffee.

Our personal favourite is the highly addictive English Milk Punch (£115), a creamy, sweet concoction – popular among socialites in the 1700’s – which contains nine spirits (yes, nine) and somehow tastes like Haribo Starmix. The Very Old Cow (£120) strikes a chord with Apérol lovers, while the Snickers Old Fashioned (£150) is every sweet-toothed drinker’s idea of paradise. While you’re there, check out the new bar eats too, as executive chef Chris Grase has whipped up some timeless favourites, including the must-order Nam Nam Wings (£120), delightful Chai Sür Bāhm Mì (£150), and incredible Smoked Salmon Tartare (£95).

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**New on the Menu:**
**Restaurants, Bars, and Brunches**

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**Brunch by the Shore**
Weekend brunches will never go out of style in Hong Kong, and now popular rooftop bar Shore is setting the trend for summer with its new Brunch by the Shore offering. Held every Sunday (weather permitting) on the venue’s beautiful outdoor terrace, the new concept ticks all the boxes, serving up barbecued meats, fresh seafood, juicy salads, highly additive wafer and, of course, oceans of free-flow Veuve Clicquot Champagne. Less boozy-driven guests can sip on fresh young coconuts, homemade lemonade, and fresh juices while admiring the stunning views of the city down below. Inspired by gorgeous shorelines around the world, the exotic themed brunch offers a more relaxed atmosphere than other brunches around town, with casual seating and subtle entrance displays a table created from plane wings while propellers and metal structures adorn the venue, which features aircraft windows in its design. Setting out to present cocktails that amplify global flavors while staying true to local taste, the menu includes its signature Singapore; One Mile At A Time cocktail, a new take on the classic Singapore Sling. On the food side, passengers can feast on ‘classics’ from eight different countries, including Chicken Bahn Mi from Vietnam, Wing Flaps, Pide Beef from Turkey, and Crispy White Fish Fillet inspired by our very own Hong Kong. Happy Hour is held every day of the week from 3pm to 8pm (and all day on Sunday). Enter via the entrance at Wyndham Tower, 33 Wyndham Street, Central, (+852) 2830 6166, www.willy-bloom.com $188 per person

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**Lily & Bloom**
5F & 6F LKF Tower, 33 Wyndham Street, Central, (+852) 2830 6166, www.willy-bloom.com
5 Easy Ways to Care for Your Hair this Summer

Words by Sophie Pettit

The high levels of humidity during a Hong Kong summer can wreak havoc on your hair with dryness, frizz, and volume all threatening to ruin your good hair day. So to help you keep your tresses healthy and tame this season, we get some expert advice from celebrity stylist David Malo from Sozo Hair Design in Central.

1. Hydrate

Use good hydrating shampoo and conditioner. Keratin in a shampoo can help with the manageability of frizzy hair, but don’t confuse it with ‘dry hair’ shampoo. If you have coarse, heavier hair then you can replace your conditioner for a mask which will help lock in all the hydrating components your hair needs to prevent it from becoming dry during the hotter months. Australian brand KEVIN.MURPHY’s hydrate series offers the perfect products to not only maintain hydration over the hottest months, but also encourage healthy hair with suppleness and bounce when you need it most.

2. Cut

Make sure you trim your hair regularly (at least every 6 to 8 weeks) even if it’s the tiniest amount. This will prevent your hair from splitting which makes it become frizzy.

3. Brush

Brush your hair from root to end using a paddle brush or a dressing brush as this can encourage natural oils to come through. There is no rule on the amount of time you should brush your hair, but a couple of times a week is a good guideline. If your hair is super curly then this is something you should do before you wash it.

4. Protect

Always use heat protecting products before you blow dry or use any heat styling tools on your hair. Constant use of heat tools on your hair without heat protection can lead to extreme dryness and eventually breakage. Japanese brands are becoming more and more popular in western countries, for example, Deesse’s Elujuda Oils are a great recommendation. Made from extracts from the baobab tree, these oils coat and protect the hair, giving it incredible shine and finish. There are two strengths – the gold FO oil is for finer hair types, and the pink MO oil is for courser hair types. Also, don’t forget to use sunscreen products if you can, otherwise finishing products like serums are also good at protecting it during the hotter months.

5. Tie

Tying or wearing your hair up in the summer time is a good idea, as it gives it less exposure to the elements which can lead to extreme dryness and eventually breakage. Japanese brands are becoming more and more popular in western countries, for example, Deesse’s Elujuda Oils are a great recommendation. Made from extracts from the baobab tree, these oils coat and protect the hair, giving it incredible shine and finish. There are two strengths – the gold FO oil is for finer hair types, and the pink MO oil is for courser hair types. Also, don’t forget to use sunscreen products if you can, otherwise finishing products like serums are also good at protecting it during the hotter months.

Top 5 Summer Sandals

Words by Sophie Pettit

Summer is here, so it’s time to lock away your boots, book yourself in for a pedicure, and polish those toes to perfection. With a whole season of sunny days at the beach and pool ahead of us, now’s the perfect time to snag a new pair of sandals. Whether you’re looking for a budget purchase or a special investment, Hong Kong has a pair to suit every style, so go ahead and check out our pick of the best.

1. Nina Tie Ballet

Calling all twinkle toes! Unleash your inner ballerina with these adorable silver Nina Tie Ballet pumps from our favourite go-to bargain store, Cotton On. For a mere $119, you can dance the night away (quite literally) in comfort. They’re also available in Navy Velvet and Blush Satin, but we say go all out and pick Silver for the most dramatic effect – you’ll be tapping those little toes down LKF in no time!

How much: $119

2. Velvet Pagodas

Channel your inner Aztec warrior with these fiercely cool boho style sandals from our favourite online store, Zalora. Tongtailing tassels, super vibrant colours, and general badass style make these Aztec Sandals a summer must-have for any free spirit with a fiery side. They’re perfect for festivals, holidays, or chilling on the beach, and the best part is they’re also on SALE! Grab a pair now before they get snapped up.

Where: Zalora, locations vary, www.zalora.com/hk
How much: $149 (original price: $249)

3. Velvet Play Aztec Laced Up Sandal

These slinky numbers are causing quite the stir since launching in Hong Kong this Spring. Adding a velvet twist to the classic flip-flop, quirky local brand Pagoda is bringing luxury to your doorstep (quite literally) when you order a pair online. Available in three gorgeous colours (for both men and women), these plush flats are stylish, super comfortable, and perfect for any alfresco occasion – they’re even splash resistant! The rubber sole makes for a confident stride, while the soft mohio moulds to your foot pattern after a few wears to provide the ultimate ride. Each pair also comes with its very own embroidered drawstring velvet travel pouch too – how fabulous!

How much: $250 (shipping is free within Asia)

4. Beaded Watermelon Slides

Summer time is all about getting juicy (no we don’t mean that with a cheeky cocktail packed with heaps of zesty fruit, so it’s only natural that Zara has whipped up these fabulous creations so you can match your favourite tipple. We love these sparkly Beaded Watermelon Slides which scream summer fun by the pool – or beach (if you’re wishing to risk getting sand stuck in between those gorgeous, little beads). These might not be the cheapest pair on the block, but just look at them!

How much: $449

5. Krown Lace Espadrilles

Nothing says summer like a pair of espadrilles, and Topshop has nailed it with these beauties. Add a touch of Game of Thrones to your summer-time antics and let your inner Mother of Dragons wreak havoc with these gorgeous lace and leather Krown Lace Espadrilles. With free shipping to Hong Kong, you’ll be mad to miss out – just don’t forget to put on the rest of your outfit too (well, she does like to get her kit off, let’s be honest!)

Where: Topshop online, www.topshop.com
How much: Approx. $550 (based on UK website)
Yoga studios that let people come and go, participating when they please, are something of a needle in a haystack in Hong Kong, drowned out by bigger, stretchy pant-wearing behemoths who demand memberships and package deals up front. But that’s no good for a lot of us - we don’t want to sign up for 12 classes when we’ve never even tried yoga and might hate it. So we cut through the sales talk to bring you eight drop-in yoga classes for those who enjoy a more flexible approach to life. Namaste!

Words by Graham Turner

Yoga studios that seem to adhere to the altruistic, intrinsically non-commercial message that’s a big part of the culture. Yoga Union delivers quality yoga classes in the heart of Central where you pay whatever you want per class while still providing mats, changing rooms, and showers. The classes themselves strike a balance between developing strength in different body parts while also imparting the meditative wisdom of the practice.

Where: 3/F, Unit 3A, 10 Arbuthnot Road, Arbuthnot House, Central, (+852) 9330 3548, www.facebook.com/yogaunion852
How much: Contribution of $100 – $150

Achieving the near impossible by having a quiet, reclusive space in the heart of Wan Chai, Blue Door Studio is ideal if you work in the city and want a bit of an escape while doing your moves. With five professional trainers all adhering to a classical approach to yoga in terms of philosophy and practice, and drop-in classes available, the studio is a safe bet for beginners and experts alike. At the very least, you’ll get some peace and quiet – bliss!

Where: G/F, 28 Sau Wa Fong, Wan Chai, (+852) 6468 5859, www.bluedoorstudiohk.com
How much: $280 per class

This out-of-the-way, relaxed studio clearly seeks to make starting yoga a bit more palatable and understandable for a newbie while also modernising it in its own small way – for example, Kita’s Hangover Class does exactly what it says on the tin – I understand those words. Good. In terms of modernisation, their Vinyasa Flow to Deep House Tunes might not exactly sound ground-breaking, but something as simple as changing up the music can maybe freshen things up for the more experienced out there who are fed up with old-school yoga tunes.

How much: $300 per class

Tucked away between Causeway Bay and Wan Chai, Yoga Aloha is a great launching pad if you’re curious as to what the fuss is all about with this yoga business. They offer some great classes such as Yin Yang which is a challenging, but doable, session of longer poses that increases strength and endurance, Candlelight Yin which is more meditative and intended to help you sleep and de-stress, and – if you’re looking to strengthen your core and do some serious sweating – Yoga Aloha’s Core & Arm Flow and Detox is the way to go.

How much: $250 per drop-in class
5. Iyengar Yoga Centre

Named after world-renowned yogi, BKS Iyengar, the Iyengar Yoga Centre is one of the cheapest and most community-driven yoga studios around. They have a very busy schedule of workshops and classes for beginners and experienced yogis alike, all of which you can drop in and out of as you please without any long-term commitment. Classes start from as low as $120, and if you like what you see, you can properly enrol and join the monthly two-hour self-practice class, which allows you to meet and practice together for just $50.

How much: $50 - $150 per class

6. Yoga BamBam

No memberships, no contracts, no sales-people harassing you, Yoga BamBam is all about freedom. You just check out their schedule, rock up on the day, and boom – yoga. Both of Yoga BamBam’s studios are nestled on quiet, leafy areas (or, as leafy as you’re likely to find in Hong Kong), but are still easily accessible. There’s a huge range of classes on offer that are ever changing and ever evolving. If you’re looking to test the waters with yoga, then this is where to go.

Where: 28 Pound Lane, Sheung Wan, (+852) 5500 3117, www.yogabambam.com
How much: $150 for first-time visitor, $200 for repeat drop-in

7. Embody

Opening it’s doors in 2008 in the serene surrounds of Discovery Bay, Embody is one of the best boutique pilates and yoga studios around, offering classical Pilates and various forms of yoga. There’s a huge range of classes catering to every kind of lifestyle, need, and goal with things like pre and post-natal classes, mummy and baby yoga, kids classes, zumba infused with Bollywood, piloxing, fat burning, and of course, traditional yoga and Pilates. All of Embody’s classes are available for single session drop-ins, or you can buy them in packages for a discount so there’s no pressure.

Where: Studio 225, 2/F, Block D, Plaza Lane, Discovery Bay, (+852) 6624 8712, www.embody.hk/prices
How much: $150 per adult class, $135 per kids class

8. Odinson

This boutique studio has a huge variety of classes you can drop in on, although they specialise in strength and conditioning more so than the meditative aspect (though there’s a bit of that as well of course). If, like us, you spend the lions share of your day at a desk fixated on a computer screen, then Odinson’s Yoga Unplugged Class is a god send – it focuses specifically on reducing the tension in your shoulders and works to improve your posture while sitting. Definitely worth checking out.

How much: Depends on the class/time. Email info@odinson.asia to get a price
**Localiiz Property Picks:**

**Flats for Under 10k a Month**

Words by Graham Turner

It’s all well and good parading dream homes that hit the six-digit mark – they’re fun to look at and we all need to have aspirations. But they’re not really realistic for the majority of us now, are they? On that depressing note, here are some properties on the market for under 10,000 dollars a month.

### 68A Macdonnell Road, Mid-Levels
- **$5,200 per month**
- **100 sq ft**
- It has a bed, toilet, shower, sink, and a lamp – pretty good for 5K in Mid-Levels

Newly renovated, on Johnston Road, and under 10 grand. That’s not bad. As you can see from the pictures, it’s actually quite lovely given the usual dingy nature of Wan Chai flats, and it’s not micro-sized – there’s definite room for activities.

Contact: AsiaExpat
www.hongkong.asiaxpat.com/property

### 52 Hillwood Road, Tsim Sha Tsui
- **$8,800 per month**
- **210 sq ft**
- It’s got a washing machine, and curtains!

Okay, so you’re not likely to be hosting many dinner parties, but breaking the 200 square foot mark at this price in TST is no mean feat. And, at the very least, if you have company over, you can take a p**s in private which is a bit of a win.

Contact: Spacious
www.spacious.hk

### 319 – 319A Lai Chi Kok Road, Sham Shui Po
- **$8,000 per month**
- **160 sq ft**
- Newly decorated, it has an outside bit!

Okay, so Sham Shui Po’s a bit ‘earthier’ than other areas let’s say (I know, I live there myself), but what’s great about it is that you’re not only saving money on rent, but also on basics such as food and laundry which, if you know where to look, come in much, much cheaper than the rest of the city.

Contact: Le Vie Property
www.lavieproperty.com.hk

### Johnston Road, Wan Chai
- **$9,500 per month**
- **180 sq ft**
- Newly decorated, it’s got one of those silver toilet paper covers

An affordable apartment in Mid-Levels you say? What is this sorcery?! In fact, it’s not only affordable, it’s stupidly cheap, we don’t really understand it but there you go. Don’t get us wrong, it’s not gonna be featured on Cribs anytime soon (is that program still a thing?), but all the nuts and bolts are there to make this an acceptable domicile for the quoted price.

Contact: Spacious
www.spacious.hk

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Access the rest of our Property Picks at Localiiz.com.

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Since 2008, PathFinders has helped over 4,500 vulnerable migrant mothers and their babies in Hong Kong.

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