Your Guide to Hong Kong Living

Hong Kong’s Best
Hidden Bars and Speakeasies

Good Deed Gifts: 8 Presents that Support a Worthy Cause
Pamper time: Hong Kong’s Best Spas
Festive Kitchen: 3 Delicious Recipes

FESTIVE Things To Do this Christmas

6 Festive Treats for Your Home
New on the Menu
Property Picks: Hong Kong’s Best Clubhouses

Not just for Christmas Things to Consider Before Adopting a Dog

Localiiz digest

November/December 2017
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Welcome to the Christmas issue of the Localiiz Digest, our collection of the very best articles from our website delivered straight into your hands.

In the blink of an eye we are back to writing our gift lists, filling our diaries with Christmas parties, and looking forward to the city lighting up in all its twinkling glory.

But before we get to that, there are heaps of goodies to keep us entertained in Hong Kong – Britain’s biggest comedian Michael McIntyre is coming to town, Formula E is racing back to Central Harbourfront, and of course, Clockenflap is back with more epic headline acts.

We hope this issue gives you some fun ideas on how to make the most out of the festive season in Hong Kong – whether you fancy grabbing some gifts at one of the many Christmas fairs, enjoying a pre-party pamper session at a luxurious spa, or having a tipple at one of the city’s mysterious hidden bars.

Don’t forget to keep your eyes peeled on our website, where we publish new articles every day on how to enjoy life in the 852. You can also follow our adventures daily on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

As always, we want to thank everyone who has supported us over the years and helped us to become one of Hong Kong’s favourite websites - we couldn’t have done it without you!

Here’s to a fabulous Christmas!

Sophie Pettit, Managing Editor
sophie@localiiz.com

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**Win an Umbrella - Tag #localiiz**

Picking our favourite Snap of the Week is not 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 inspiration?** Take a look at these cracking shots of Hong Kong that earned a spot in our Snap of the Week album.

Happy snapping, readers!

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**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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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 with the Localiiz guide to What’s On 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.

CLOCKENFLAP FESTIVAL
Oh yes ladies and gents, Clockenflap is back again for its 10th edition and this time it’s bigger and better than ever before! Spreading over three days from November 17 to 19, Hong Kong’s most anticipated music and arts festival will be bringing you a sparkling array of talents, unique attractions, and huge headliners like The Prodigy, Massive Attack, and Kaiser Chiefs. I don’t think we need to explain much more do we? Bag your tickets right now for the biggest music event of the year at www.clockenflap.com/tickets.

MICHAEL MCINTYRE’S BIG WORLD TOUR
Much-loved British comedian Michael McIntyre’s spot on observational comedy and trademark ability to turn everyday situations into master-classes of human exasperation have struck chords with millions of fans, resolutely cementing him as one of the UK’s most loved and treasured comedy performers today. Good news then that he’ll be making his Hong Kong debut this November 27 and 28. Available tickets will likely not be around for too long, so grab them now at www.hkticketing.com.

HONG KONG E-PRIX
Get ready for two days of adrenaline-filled racing at the 2017 Hong Kong E-Prix on December 2 and 3. As the opening event of the Formula E season, the E-Prix will return to the Central Harbourfront with not one, but two races, making Hong Kong the first Asian city to host a double-header. But don’t worry if you’re not totally into the races, as the family-friendly E-Village will offer interactive tech booths, racing simulators, live EDM performances, and limited edition souvenirs for you to take home. Get your tickets now at www.ticketflap.com.
**November**

- **Forever Crazy**
  November 1 – 12
- **Secret Theatre Project Mayhem**
  November 3 – December 10
- **Hong Kong International Literary Festival 2017**
  November 3 – 12
- **Hong Kong Mental Health Conference**
  November 3 – 5
- **Spartan Race**
  November 4
- **The Regatta Ball**
  November 4
- **11th Annual HK International Comedy Competition Finals**
  November 4
- **HKGNA Music Festival 2017**
  November 7
- **Orion String Quartet Concert**
  November 8
- **AWA Charity Bazaar 2017**
  November 9
- **Gold Coast Motor Festival**
  November 11 – 12
- **Eric Marienthal with Hong Kong Sax Assault**
  November 13
- **Cosmoprof Asia**
  November 14 – 17
- **Clockenflap Festival**
  November 17 – 19
- **The Gallery Walk For Charity**
  November 21
- **Lumieres Hong Kong**
  November 23 – 25
- **Hong Kong Pride Parade**
  November 25
- **Michael McIntyre’s Big World Tour**
  November 27 – 28
- **Captain Khalid’s: I Think I am Single**
  November 29

**December**

- **Pulse 3D Light Show**
  December 1 – 28
- **JUST MMA: JUST Challenge**
  December 1
- **Father Christmas Theatre Show**
  December 1 – 2
- **2017 FIA Formula E Hong Kong**
  December 2 – 3
- **DesignInspire**
  December 7 – 9
- **Shawn Mendes Illuminate World Tour 2017**
  December 13
- **Creamfields Hong Kong 2017**
  December 15 – 16
- **Ink Asia**
  December 15 – 17
- **Diving Resort Travel Expo**
  December 15 – 17
- **Hong Kong Wedding Fair**
  December 15 – 17
- **HOPE Worldwide Great Santa Night Run**
  December 16
- **The Snowman and The Bear**
  December 17
- **Scrooge! The Musical**
  December 19 – 26
- **Hong Kong Toys Expo**
  December 24 – 26
- **Hong Kong Homex 2017**
  December 24 – 27
- **Hong Kong Car Show 2017**
  December 24 – 27
- **Hong Kong Mega Showcase**
  December 24 – 27
- **HK Ice Carnival**
  Until February 25
Tis’ the season to be jolly! It might not be a white Christmas here in Hong Kong, but it sure is filled with seasonal cheer – just take a look at these festive happenings around town.

Festive Things to Do this Christmas

**AWA Charity Bazaar**
Celebrating its 30th anniversary, the American Women’s Association of Hong Kong returns this year with another Charity Bazaar. Inviting all to participate in a meaningful fundraising event to help support local organisations in need, the bazaar will feature over 70 vendors and include everything from jewellery and cosmetics, to stationery and wine.
*When: November 9, (11.30pm – 7.30pm)*
*Where: PMQ, 35 Aberdeen Street, Soho*
*How much: Free admission*

**Prestige Fairs**
Held across four different events, Prestige Fairs invite you to fulfil all your Christmas gift shopping needs in one place. From a Gift & Lifestyle fair, to a grand Christmas Showcase, discover all the latest and most unique gifts from across the globe for your nearest and dearest this holiday season.
*When: November 15, 17 & December 2, 10*
*Where: Conrad Hong Kong Grand Ballroom, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty*
*How much: Free admission*

**The Repulse Bay Christmas Fair**
Head down to Repulse Bay for a day of Christmas decorations, handicrafts, and a whole lot of shopping. Be on the lookout for their special sales where you can snag yourself a few bargains too.
*When: November 26*
*Where: The Repulse Bay Arcade, 109 Repulse Bay Road*
*How much: Free admission*

**BiteUnite Pop-up**
Known for always whipping up a good event, BiteUnite is back this Christmas with a pop-up shop and farmers market. Come along for some gluten-free nibbles and organic cold-pressed juices and grab yourself the freshest Christmas produce for that perfect batch of homemade minced pies – yum!
*When: December 2, (2pm – 7pm)*
*Where: BiteUnite, 15 Lung On Street, Wanchai*
*How much: Free admission*

**Christmas Southside Market**
Enjoy an all-you-can-eat lunch or free-flow wine and beer at The Butchers Club’s Southside Market this December 17, and cross a few items off your gift list whilst you’re at it. Keep an eye on their Facebook page for more details on live entertainments and menu items.
*When: December 17, (12pm – 5pm)*
*Where: 16/F, Shui Ki Industrial Building, 18 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen*
*How much: $200 - $250*
**Theatre Productions**

**Father Christmas**
Santa Claus is coming to town! Based on the famous book by Raymond Briggs, this festive theatre production invites you to join Father Christmas as he gets ready for his busiest day of the year. Full of Christmas cheers, playful puppetry, and heart-warming live music, this is the perfect production to capture and explore your little one’s wildest imagination.

*When:* December 1, (4pm & 6.30pm) / December 2, (11am, 2pm & 4.30pm)
*Where:* The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai
*How much:* $335 – $435

**The Nutcracker**
Now it wouldn’t be Christmas without a performance of The Nutcracker would it? Set to Tchaikovsky’s iconic music with live accompaniment by Hong Kong Sinfonietta, transport to an enchanting world of splendor and magic as you witness the Nutcracker’s heroic journey to defeating the evil Rat King before reuniting with his one true love. It’s the ultimate family festive celebration.

*When:* December 15 – 26, (2.30pm and 7.30pm)
*Where:* Grand Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui
*How much:* $180 – $1,000

**Scrooge! The Musical**
It’s the Christmas story that we all know and love – but with song and dance! Fly through the past to future with Scrooge and the ghosts of his good friends on Christmas eve to learn a lesson about true happiness. Winning numerous awards such as best makeup and image designs, best actor award, and top 10 most popular production at the Hong Kong Drama Awards, this tragic yet heart-warming Broadway musical is a must-see for the whole family.

*When:* December 19 – 25, (7.45pm) December 26, (2.30pm)
*Where:* The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai
*How much:* $85 – $350

**Ice Carnival**
Strap in boys and girls, this year’s Ice Carnival at Tai Tong is going to be an all-round fun fest like you’ve never seen before. Aside from the mesmerizing 10,000 square foot Ice World making a return this year, there will also be seven other game worlds such as the Rally City, Inflatable Funland, an animal farm, and even a magic theatre show.

*When:* Until February 25, 2018 (Monday to Thursday, 12pm – 6pm / Friday to Sunday, 10am – 6pm)
*Where:* Tai Tong, Yuen Long
*How much:* $80

**HK Ice Skating**
If you’re looking for something a little closer to home, then take your pick of Hong Kong’s cool indoor ice rinks. Glide over to Ice Palace in CityPlaza, The Rink at Elements, Glacier at Festival Walk, or Mega Ice at MegaBox, and show off your skating skills. Prices range from 50 cents per minute to $55 per session.

*Ice Palace,* 1/F, Cityplaza, 18 Taikoo Shing Road, Tai Kok Chung
*The Rink,* G/F, Elements, No. 1 Austin Road West, Tsim Sha Tsui
*Glacier,* Shop UG-21, Festival Walk, Kowloon Tong
*Mega Ice,* MegaBox, 38 Wang Chiu Road, Kowloon Bay
**Music Concerts**

**Christmas with We 4 Kings**
Get ready for a royal treat as all-male ensemble We 4 Kings bring you a Christmas concert featuring traditional, classical, and modern renditions of your favourite festive tunes. In addition to being accompanied on the piano, the Kings will also be backed by Bel-Canto Singers Ensemble, Heep Yunn School Choir, and the Innovation Orchestra.

*When:* November 28, (8pm – 10pm)
*Where:* Hong Kong City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central
*How much:* $180 – $380

**The Snowman and The Bear**
Back by popular demand, experience a double bill of Howard Blake's whimsical winter classics, *The Snowman* and *The Bear*. Appearing on the big screen with live orchestral accompaniment, singing, and on-stage narration, this is a Christmas celebration you can't afford to miss.

*When:* December 17, (4.30pm & 7.30pm)
*Where:* Hong Kong City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central
*How much:* $120 – $380

**Complete Deelite Baking Workshop**
If you're spoiled for choice when it comes to Christmas nibbles this season, then Complete Deelite has got you covered. From cooking up a gingerbread house, to putting together a Christmas cookie bouquet, they will be hosting a whole range of seasonal workshops for you and your little ones to bake up mouth-watering treats to satisfy your taste buds.

*When:* December 14 – 16, 18, 19 & 21, (10am – 12pm)
*Where:* 2/F On Lan Centre, 11 – 15 On Lan Street, Central
*How much:* $650 – $1,600

**Pulse 3D Light Show**
With a spectacular 3D projection mapping, creative light and sound effects, and a new interactive game, the Hong Kong Pulse Light Show is a dazzling multimedia extravaganza that will fall on the façade of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre and Clock Tower in Tsim Sha Tsui. Lasting roughly eight minutes per session, this magical audiovisual show is sure to illuminate your holidays with your family and friends.

*When:* December 1 – 28, (8.20pm, 8.40pm, 9pm, 9.20pm & 9.40pm)
*Where:* Open Piazza, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui
*How much:* Free admission

**HOPE Worldwide Great Santa Night Run**
They say “the best way to spread Christmas Cheer is singing loud for all to hear”, but we reckon seeing thousands of Santas running along the Pak Shek Kok Promenade is a pretty good option too. Raising funds and awareness for the underprivileged children of Hong Kong, the Hope Worldwide Great Santa Run welcomes families, individuals, and corporate companies to join the pack. As an extra bonus, all participants will receive a complimentary Santa suit too.

*When:* December 16, (6.30pm)
*Where:* Pak Shek Kok Promenade, Hong Kong Science park
*How much:* $250 – $10,000

**Disney’s Sparkling Christmas**
Join Mickey and friends at Disneyland this Christmas for the most stunning and magical celebration. Aside from feasting into sumptuous holiday menu items and on-the-go treats, you and your family can experience the holiday spirit in all its shimmering glory at the Holiday Wish-Come-True lighting ceremony, or watch all your favourite Disney characters dance through the main streets in the Magical Twilight Snowfall show. Come experience the magic for yourself.

*When:* November 16 – January 1, 2018
*Where:* Disneyland Hong Kong, Lantau Island
*How much:* $100 (Seniors age 65+) / $419 (Children age 3 – 11) / $589 (Adult age 12 – 64)

**Other Goodies**

Visit Localiiz and see what other events are happening around the city.
Crabalicious
Claws Worth a Detour • 1-30 Nov, 2017
Christmas is a time for loving and giving, so it seems like the perfect opportunity to snag some gifts that not only treat someone you love, but also support a worthy cause. Check out these eight gorgeous pressie ideas that give something back to those in need. Here’s to good karma!

### Good Deed Gifts
8 Presents that Support a Worthy Cause

#### 1. The Lion Rock Press

Make it a Hong Kong Christmas this year with the adorable selection of festive cards, wrapping paper, gift tags, and tape available in The Lion Rock Press Holiday Collection (pictured above). Aside from being insanely cute, these lovely products help raise money for Mother’s Choice, a local charity supporting children without families and pregnant teenagers in Hong Kong. Valuing the importance of family, the company donates 100% of the profits from the collection to the charity, and has raised over $200,000 in the last four years. Why not help them bump up that figure and send a little love this Christmas.

The Lion Rock Press
[www.thelionrockpress.com](http://www.thelionrockpress.com) (refer to website for locations)

- Cards $25 each or $100 for 10, Tape $75 for a pack
- Gift tags $5 each or $50 for 10, Wrapping paper $20 per piece or $150 for 10

Check out the St John’s Cathedral Charity Christmas Card & Handicraft Fair at Li Hall, Central on November 4.
2. Smallprint
You can't get more personal than this! The clever designers at Smallprint enable you to capture precious childhood memories by imprinting your little one's hand or footprint into sterling silver pendants, charms, key rings, and other beautiful keepsakes. But this heart-warming gift gives more than just memories, as every time you purchase a handmade angel keepsake, teddy bear, or child's bracelet, the company makes a donation to Angels for Orphans which helps improve the life of underprivileged children around the world.

Smallprint
www.smallprint.com
Refer to website for product prices

3. Eureka Socks
If you're planning on buying socks for your friends and family this Christmas (come on, we all do), then make sure it's a pair of Eureka Socks, because for every pair sold, they will donate a pair to children and homeless people in need all over Hong Kong and Asia. With a range of school, athletic, men's, invisible, and funky designs (pictured above) on offer, there's a pair to suit everyone on your gift list. Plus, each pair is made from sustainable bamboo which is not only the most eco-friendly sock material on the market, but also super soft on your feet.

Eureka Socks
www.eurekasocks.com
Socks start from $35 a pair

4. Good 'Hoods
It's all good in the 'hood thanks to these simple yet playful t-shirts by Good 'Hoods, which not only support local businesses, but also raise funds for Enrich which supports migrant workers in financial literacy. All shirts use organic cotton sourced from the Puhann village community in Shanxi, thus directly impacting the economic, environmental, and social sustainability of rural China. The company also works with a local certified Fair Trade Hong Kong manufacturer who is devoted to sustainable production and produces a range of sizes from 3 to 12 years. The t-shirts have a variety of Hong Kong locations printed on them, making this is the ideal gift for proud little Hong Kongers. And if you ask them nicely, they may even customise one for you.

Good 'Hoods
T-shirts start from $200
www.good-hoods.com/hongkong

5. Baby Hero
Saving the world, one onesie at a time, Baby Hero boasts an adorable collection of globally certified organic cotton products which fund life-saving medical items for newborns in need in Pakistan and Kenya. Not only that, they also pay fair trade prices to rural farmers in the developing world and their production facility is run by women and provides jobs for disadvantaged people. Their new Christmas range is insanely cute, with festive themed onesies starting from $190 and each coming with a free organic cotton Santa sack (pictured below). Be sure to check out their lovely range of organic, hand-knit fair trade toys too if you're planning on buying gifts for a certain little someone this Christmas.

Baby Hero
Onesies start from $190
www.babyhero.ro
6. Urban Jungle Jewellery
Who doesn’t love receiving a gorgeous piece of jewellery on Christmas Day? Local brand Urban Jungle Jewellery offers a range of beautiful handmade bracelets which come in 925 sterling silver or 14k gold filled with a choice of gorgeous charms, semi-precious stones, and Swarovski birthstone crystals. You can choose from their array of pretty designs or completely customise your own, creating either an elasticated bracelet or an adjustable one which comes on a thread in 14 different colours. For every one of these “do good, feel good” bracelets purchased, the brand donates 5% to Haven Cambodia, a charity in Siem Reap which trains impoverished teens in the restaurant industry and helps to break their family’s cycle of poverty in one generation. If that’s not a great excuse to splurge on some bling, we then we don’t know what is!

7. Lil Nika
Calling all animal lovers! Your little ones will never be afraid of the dark with Imo the Hippo, Oma the Lion, and Emi the Elephant by their side. Not only are these lovable origami inspired night lights by local design house Lil Nika made from 100% tested recycled plastic, they can also be mounted on the floor, table, or wall, and even turned into hats for the ultimate role-playing session. Plus, they come with a handy USB plug meaning they can roam wild wherever you go. The designers have even thought about wastage and cleverly transformed the offcuts into a matching pair of binoculars to add to the whole safari theme. Lil Nika works with the New Homes Association to raise awareness among children about illegal poaching, so these characters come with an important message too.

8. Chinadoll Kids
Little fashionistas will jump for joy when they unwrap a gorgeous little cheongsam with a “modern twist” from Chinadoll Kids. For every one of these beautiful silk dresses sold, the company donates a full school starter kit to underprivileged children at the Sunshine school in Vietnam. They work closely with the Christina Noble Children’s Foundation (CNCF) to make sure that children begin their important first day with all the essentials they need such as a uniform, school books, and pens, so you can rest assured this thoughtful gift will be making two little ones happy this Christmas.
All you need to Look & Feel Good

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Unit 12, 14th Floor, 2 Lee Lok Street,
Ap Lei Chau, HONG KONG
Tel: 2526 1036
Email: info@rosarini.com
The speakeasy (or hidden bar) concept has blown up in Hong Kong over the past few years, meeting our growing desire to enjoy our cocktails with a dash of mystery and a twist of adventure. We venture down alleyways and spiral staircases to find you the very best our city has to offer.

**Hong Kong’s Best Hidden Bars and Speakeasies**

The Old Man

Tucked away down an alleyway off Aberdeen Street, Hong Kong’s latest speakeasy is the charming creation of cocktail pioneer Agung Prabowo (previously of the Island Shangri-la and Mandarin Oriental) who was crowned one of Asia’s Top 10 Bartenders in 2017. It’s not hard to see why when you step inside this Ernest Hemingway inspired gem and watch him whip you up a delicious cocktail inspired by the author’s novels — the *Green Hills of Africa* is a delight. Shelves of books, dark wooden cabinets, and crystal decanters line the walls of this modestly-sized bar, which oozes sophistication and old world charm, plus a level of intimacy made all the more endearing by Agung’s cracking smile.

**The Old Man, Lower Ground Floor, 37 Aberdeen Street, Central**

Employees Only

Slap bang in the middle of bustling Lan Kwai Fong is Employees Only, New York’s favourite speakeasy and home to the knock-your-socks-off *Gimlet*, made with navy strength gin. Aside from this fabulous signature cocktail, which is served by bartenders who free-pour at speed with utter precision, this hidden bar offers a great atmosphere, tasty late night bites, and a kickass playlist, belting out everything from mellow lounge beats to classic rock as the night goes on. You might even be lucky (or unlucky) enough to catch the mysterious fortune-teller tucked away behind a velvet curtain in his lair.

**Employees Only, 19 Lan Kwai Fong, Central**

Dr Fern’s Gin Parlour

Feeling a little under the weather? Dodge the countless bags of unnecessary pills your local doc will prescribe you and let eccentric physician Dr Fern cure your ailments with a healthy dose of gin and tonic. This doctor has dedicated his life to studying botanicals and creating his own concoctions of fresh local herbs, paired with gins from around the world, that he’s handpicked for his patients. And if you find yourself overwhelmed with the 20-page drinks menu, then his trusty team of physicians (you’ll spot them in white lab coats) are happy to assist. As soon as you enter the ‘Waiting Room’ in this delightfully quirky basement bar in the Landmark, you know you’re in for a real treat.

**Dr. Fern’s Gin Parlour, Shop B31A, First Basement Floor, Landmark Atrium, 15 Queen’s Road, Central**
J. Boroski
Not based on a fictional character as such, but rather its owner’s childhood fascination with creepy crawlies, J. Boroski is one of three Ashley Sutton designed bars on our list and home to clusters of preserved scarab beetles and hairy spiders which adorn its train carriage interior. Definitely not a place for those with arachnophobia, this secluded hideaway isn’t the easiest to find and lies beyond an unmarked door in a dark alleyway off Hollywood Road. Once inside, you’ll get to experience a whole new level of service as the bartenders offer to create custom-crafted cocktails if you tell them your spirit and flavour preferences – now aren’t we special!

J. Boroski, 1 Hollywood Road, Central

Mrs. Pound
Feisty, fun, and totally kitsch, this secret hideaway, once owned by the “charismatic” and “exotic” burlesque dancer Mrs. Pound, is disguised as a stamp shop, but push down on the correct ‘chop’ at the entrance, and a magic door will slide open to reveal a fuchsia-coloured treasure trove full of trinkets belonging to the mysterious muse. As bar legend goes, Mrs. Pound travelled the world on the arms of different suitors before disappearing from the public eye in the 1950s when her wealthy lover Mr. Ming hid her in his favourite stamp shop. She filled it with jewels, feathered masks, and all kinds of tacky yet wonderful knick-knacks. The spicy Pound’s Mary (with tom yum infused vodka) is definitely worth a try, as are the tasty Avocado Fries and Sriracha Street Corn on offer here – delish!

Mrs. Pound, 6 Pound Lane, Sheung Wan

Foxglove
Things aren’t always as they seem. Enter the Fox Shop umbrella boutique on Duddell Street, press down on the correct silver-handled brolly, and unveil a secret doorway into one of Hong Kong’s most impressive hidden bars. Inspired by the globe-trotting adventures of a fictitious English gentleman called Mr. Minza, who created a place named after his beloved’s favourite flower to win her heart, this cinematic venue boasts a glamorous interior inspired by a 1950s first-class luxury liner. Decked out with plush upholstery, a low ceiling, and even cabin portholes in the washrooms, the venue harks back to the golden age of cocktails and jazz. Its spacious yet intimate lounge plays host to live music several nights a week, where you get to sip on insanely strong gin martinis and marvel at the sense of lost luxury.

Foxglove, G/F, 18 Ice House Street, 6 Duddell Street, Central

Ophelia
Opulent, lush, and totally over-the-top, Ophelia is a definite must-see if you appreciate theatrics – and well, peacocks. Another Ashley Sutton designed bar (the others being the Iron Fairies and J.Boroski), the venue is hidden behind an exotic bird shop owned by an eccentric (and fictitious) bird collector called Mr Wong. It’s also inspired by the opium dens of the 19th century, and you may feel like you’re hallucinating when you pull back the velvet curtain to discover an exotic, green-hued wonderland where feather-clad ‘muses’ lay suspended above the bar and giant birdcages with swings invite you to sit and pose for pictures — certainly worth checking out for your Instagram feed.

Ophelia, Shop 41A, 1/F The Avenue, Lee Tung Avenue, Wan Chai
**Forgotten Hong Kong**

**Stockton**

Tucked away down a dark, narrow alleyway, marked only by a few flickering candles on the ground, lies a dark and broody land filled with hard liquor and dreamy cocktails. This seductively hidden bar oozes a sophisticated colonial vibe with rich vintage furniture, antique knick-knacks, and the occasional mounted stag head creating a country manor house feel. Aside from boasting an impressive collection of taxidermy and human skulls (yep, you read that right), Stockton also homes a secret cigar room. But don’t be put off if you’re not a hardcore liquor lover, as there are some beautifully crafted cocktails on offer here - namely the new Minds Undone Series, which invites you to “bask in the wonderful craziness” of literature’s greatest treasures. The P. Scott Fitzgerald inspired Tender Addict is sensational. There’s a reason this place is 8th on Asia’s 50 Best Bars list for 2017.

**Missy Ho’s**

A cheeky nod to Hong Kong’s cultural past, this unmarked Kennedy Town gem is filled with references to the city’s traditions, such as birdcages, historical photographs, and an impressive collection of weird and wonderful trinkets. There’s also a costume dress-up closet for you to create the ultimate selfie, as well as two hidden swings that can be enjoyed if you ask the bar staff nicely. Make sure to check out the Missy Ho’s Fizz cocktail (a twist of whiskey sour with a dash of Absinthe and fizz of soda) as well as the “funky fusion cuisine”, which includes things like Spicy Salmon Rolls, Teriyaki, and a delicious Pecan Caramel Chocolate Pudding. Yum!

**Tai Lung Fung**

One of our favourite hidden bars in Hong Kong – ode to its shabby chic appearance and old-school Hong Kong vibe. Old photos and memorabilia from the 1960s make up the fun interior of this quirky bar, which pays homage to the city’s cultural past, and is often packed with punters overflowing on to the street. Here you can find home-brewed alcoholic drinks and a huge menu of cocktails at just $45 a pop during happy hour (from noon until 9pm), plus some tasty street food to boot. Playful, low-key, and full of personality, this charming hidden gem earns a well-deserved spot on our list.

**Fu Lu Shou**

This funky little Hollywood Road hideout has certainly earned a reputation that lives up to its motto, ‘Eat, drink, and be prosperous’. The need-to-know door code, which changes frequently, adds an air of intimacy to this well-hidden spot which is decorated with colourful retro furniture and old-school Chinese street art that pays tribute to Hong Kong’s past. The outdoor roof terrace is effortlessly cool, providing the perfect spot to enjoy some creatively named cocktails and western-style China Town dishes – Sesame Prawn Toast and a Suzie Wong Does Hong Kong anyone? It’s pretty hipster, but we still love it. So call ahead, get those magic digits, and let yourself in on this quirky little secret.

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**Parisian Flair**

**Feather Boa**

Hidden behind a thick velvet curtain, with absolutely no signage above, this French inspired gem on Staunton Street is often packed to the brim and bursting with a quirky, energetic vibe. Knock on the door and one of the two sisters who run the place will take your Hong Kong ID card and (if you smile at them nicely) let you in. Once inside, feisty bartender Stella will whip you up the best strawberry and banana daiquiris you will find in Hong Kong, served in cocoa rimmed glasses that you will literally need two hands to hold. Be warned though, you will get yelled at if you’re too loud — and maybe even kicked out. Remember, they have your ID card ... they know who you are!

**Le Boudoir**

If you love Moulin Rouge then this is the bar for you. Enter the inconspicuous entrance on Wyndham Street and make your way down the dark, winding staircase to discover an underground world of Parisian glamour, where an eclectic mix of furniture, chandeliers, feathered masks, and vintage knick-knacks come together to create a touch of je ne sais quoi. Despite being located on one of the most popular drinking streets in Hong Kong, this place will make you feel like you’re a million miles away from Asia – and the 21st century! While you’re there, make sure to try the Spicy Fifty cocktail which comes with Thai red chili – it will knock your socks off.

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Scarlett Café & Wine Bar

Not a speakeasy as such, but certainly off the beaten track, this cosy modern venue on Austin Avenue has a chic French bistro vibe with blackboard menus, metal and wooden decor, and an open kitchen serving up a range of tasty tapas, dreamy cheese boards, and great value French wines. Not only home to one of our favourite happy hour deals, (with two-for-one drinks and tapas every day of the week), it also hosts monthly wine masterclasses and live music events. With a restaurant upstairs, and casual bar opening onto the street downstairs, this "dark side" gem is perfect for date night too!

Scarlett Café & Wine Bar, 2 Austin Ave Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

Butler

Size isn’t everything, and while classic American style bar Butler may be small, it’s certainly not lacking in personality. Seating only ten guests along the counter and twelve spread across two tables, this Japanese run watering hole is the ideal spot to enjoy a quiet drink in an intimate setting. Many Japanese businessmen come here to admire the bartenders’ ability to showcase the precision of Japanese cocktail-making techniques and whip up whatever bespoke creations they desire – all the while donning Casablanca-style white dinner jackets. If whiskey is your poison, check out the bar upstairs – with over 200 different types of whiskey on offer, you definitely won’t be disappointed.

Butler, 5/F, Mody House, 30 Mody Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

Ping Pong 129 Gintoria

Space is an illusion. Venture through the ominous-looking red door in Sai Ying Pun and make your way down the staircase to discover a gin-infused wonderland that will make you feel like you’ve just entered the Tardis. There’s really only one word to describe Ping Pong – huge. The bar is huge, the drinks are huge, and so are the red lit-up Chinese characters above the bar that translates to “Train Your Body”. Be warned though, the cocktails here aren’t cheap, but they do last a long time. This spacious basement, adorned with chic leather couches and rug-draped floors, boasts an overwhelming variety of Spanish and international gins and a giant wall of boobs - pop art is a big feature here!

Ping Pong 129 Gintoria, 129 Second Street, Nam Cheong House, Sai Ying Pun

The Iron Fairies

If Neverland or Narnia were your ‘happy place’ as a kid, then this enchanted wonderland will blow you away. Ten thousand butterflies dangle overhead, little bottles of fairy dust hang from the ceiling in clusters, and candles flicker inside six large iron furnaces which invite you in to explore. Inspired by Ashley Sutton’s experience in the iron ore mines in Western Australia, and trilogy of children’s books about a band of miners who forge iron-fairy figurines, this fantasy land will make you feel like you’ve stepped into another world. During your expedition, make sure to try the Smoke in a Bottle cocktail and watch in awe as it arrives at your table in a smoke-filled bottle and is poured over ice cubes. Magic!

The Iron Fairies, LG, Chinachem Hollywood Centre, 1-13 Hollywood Road, Central
If you love a good happy hour deal, then slide on over to 79 Wyndham Street and sip on two-for-one beers, Prosecco, spirits, and cocktails from 5pm every day of the week. Adding a touch of class to the former Rude Bar, Slide on 79 is a playful, vibrant, and relaxing place to chill and lap up some colourful pop art over a tipple or two. Classic cocktails will set you back a reasonable $98 with wines and Prosecco coming in at around the $90 mark. Sports nuts will be pleased to know they can catch live screenings of all the big rugby, cricket, football, formula one, tennis, and golf events throughout the year. And if you love a bit of live music, then swing by on a Wednesday or Thursday night and catch the house band. Alternatively, catch their live DJ on Friday and Saturday nights.

Slide on 79, Upper Basement, Harilela House, 79 Wyndham Street, Central, (+852) 2779 9279

Los Sotano
“Tequila, it makes me happy” – especially when served in a beer bottle inside a brown paper bag! That’s right, Lan Kwai Fong has a new bar on the block and it couldn’t get more Mexican if Frida Kahlo was there herself — oh wait, she is
New Brunch

Bib N Hops

New Menu

9¾ Cafe

"Wingardium Leviosa!" Calling all Harry Potter fans – a brand new cafe has arrived in Hong Kong, paying homage to the wonderful wizarding world of J. K. Rowling and the "boy who lived". Tucked away inside a commercial building on Yin Ching Street in Mong Kok, the 9¾ Cafe is everything Potterheads could dream of – and thankfully, they don't have to run into a brick wall to get there! Magical potions are up for grabs, including the famous Butterbeer ($48), The Dementor's Kiss ($138), Forbidden Forest Aragog Salad ($72), and The Order of the Phoenix ($118). We have to warn you though, these drinks are sirius-ly sweet (oh yes we did), so be prepared to snap your Instapics and be on your way after one. Definitely worth checking out for the props and decor – and of course the novelty factor.

9¾ Cafe, 4/F, Prosper Commercial Building, 9 Yin Chong Street, Mong Kok, (+852) 9432 6555

Seasons French Restaurant

What could beat spending a Sunday afternoon feasting on a delicious French-style brunch and sipping on bottomless champagne at a Michelin-starred restaurant? Not much, we think. Recently arriving on Hong Kong's popular brunch scene, Seasons French Restaurant's offering features all the staples – a buffet of fresh seafood including Maine lobsters from Portland, fresh oysters, prawns and Alaskan crab legs, as well as platters of delicious cold meats and French cheeses, and a dessert station serving up baked lemon tart, macarons, eclairs, and Hong Kong-style egg waffles topped with ice cream and marshmallows. Of course, no brunch is complete without an egg – and you get to choose from four variations that are served with bacon, hash brown, tomatoes, and Portobello mushrooms. You also get to choose a main course, and we have to say this is a really tough choice, given the selection includes the famous Seasons Burger, roasted beef sirloin, chicken, lamb shoulder, and Mussels Marinated in White White Broth. As if that isn't enough to make your mouth water, you also get to enjoy free-flow Veuve Clicquot champagne, or wines and beers, for an additional cost.

Seasons French Restaurant, 308, 3/F Lee Garden Two, 28 Yun Ping Road, Causeway Bay, (+852) 2505 6228
Every Sunday, (12pm-4pm); $498 for adults and $348 for kids (free-flow champagne $190 / wines and beers $128)

Jinjuu Weekend Korean Brunch

If you’re looking for an effective hangover cure after a big Friday or Saturday night then we’re pretty sure we’ve found it. Korean Restaurant Jinjuu is whipping up spicy treats at the new weekend semi-buffet brunch which invites you to delve into an all-you-can-eat starter menu of seven dishes, select one of five mains, and tuck into a humongous Ice Cream Platter – all for a bargain $388 per person. We have to say, the real stars of the show here are the starters, with the spicy Chicken Skewers, Char-grilled King Prawn, and Asparagus & Kimchi Spanish Tortillas stealing the show.

Of the three mains we tried, only the Korean Fried Baby Chicken really stood out in terms of flavour, so your best bet is probably to fill up on as many tasty starters as you can and leave room for the incredible ice cream platter at the end – because the cookies & cream and the mango are amazing! And if you believe in the hair of the dog tactic, then you’ll no doubt enjoy delving into the seven cocktails on offer – the Spicy Kimchi Mary will blow your socks off and the Pink Coconut Sirius-ly sweet (oh yes we did), so be prepared to get to choose a main course, and we have to say this is a really tough choice, given the selection includes the famous Seasons Burger, roasted beef sirloin, chicken, lamb shoulder, and Mussels Marinated in White White Broth. As if that isn't enough to make your mouth water, you also get to enjoy free-flow Veuve Clicquot champagne, or wines and beers, for an additional cost.

Jinjuu周末韩国早午餐

Jinjuu是一家位于大澳街21号，兰桂坊的韩国餐厅。它在周末提供半自助式早午餐，您可以选择多达七道风味小吃作为开胃菜，然后选择一道主菜。真正令人印象深刻的菜品是麻辣鸡肉串、炭烧大虾和西班牙煎蛋卷。

在三款主菜中，只有Korean Fried Baby Chicken让人印象深刻。我们的建议是尽量品尝更多美味的开胃菜，然后留出足够的空间来享用令人难以置信的冰淇淋拼盘——所有招牌$388每人。我们必须说，这里的主菜是真正的明星。

9¾ Cafe

“Wingardium Leviosa!” 让所有哈利·波特迷兴奋起来！9¾ Cafe是一家位于Yin Ching Street, Mong Kok的全新咖啡馆，以J. K. Rowling的魔法世界为主题，完美复刻了《哈利·波特》中的场景。这里可以购买各种魔法饮料，包括著名的Butterbeer ($48)、Dementor’s Kiss ($138)、Forbidden Forest Aragog Salad ($72)、Order of the Phoenix ($118)。不过，我们需要提醒你，这些饮料非常甜蜜（我们是在开玩笑），所以准备好拍照留念然后离开吧。当然，这个地方值得参观的还有道具和装饰——当然，还有不可错过的特色。

9¾ Cafe, 4/F, Prosper Commercial Building, 9 Yin Chong Street, Mong Kok, (+852) 9432 6555

Seasons French Restaurant

如果你想在周末享受一顿美味的法式早午餐，那么Seasons French Restaurant是一个不错的选择。这家餐厅提供新鲜海鲜，包括缅因州龙虾，新鲜牡蛎，阿拉斯加蟹腿，以及各种美味的冷肉和法式奶酪，还有各种甜点，如烤柠檬挞，马卡龙，泡芙，以及香港风格的鸡蛋华夫饼淋上冰激凌和棉花糖。

Seasons French Restaurant, 308, 3/F Lee Garden Two, 28 Yun Ping Road, Causeway Bay, (+852) 2505 6228
Every Sunday, (12pm-4pm); $498 for adults and $348 for kids (free-flow champagne $190 / wines and beers $128)

Jinjuu周末韩国早午餐

金韩周末随意早午餐

If you’re looking for an effective hangover cure after a big Friday or Saturday night then we’re pretty sure we’ve found it. Korean Restaurant Jinjuu is whipping up spicy treats at the new weekend semi-buffet brunch which invites you to delve into an all-you-can-eat starter menu of seven dishes, select one of five mains, and tuck into a humongous Ice Cream Platter – all for a bargain $388 per person. We have to say, the real stars of the show here are the starters, with the spicy Chicken Skewers, Char-grilled King Prawn, and Asparagus & Kimchi Spanish Tortillas stealing the show.

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在三款主菜中，只有Korean Fried Baby Chicken让人印象深刻。我们的建议是尽量品尝更多美味的开胃菜，然后留出足够的空间来享用令人难以置信的冰淇淋拼盘——所有招牌$388每人。我们必须说，这里的主菜是真正的明星。
We all need to recharge our batteries from time to time, and what better way to do so than at one of Hong Kong’s beautiful spas. Whether you’re on a budget or looking to splurge, we know just the spot to help you unwind.

**Essential Spa**

With seven locations dotted around Hong Kong, you’re never far away from an Essential Spa and the menu of goodies they offer for a bargain buck. A 55-minute Swedish, deep tissue, or acupressure body massage will set you back a reasonable $580, while a novelty 50-minute Chocolate Fondue or Yoghurt Mousse Body Mask costs $980. The spa also offers hydrobaths, slimming treatments, nail services, and facials ranging from $480 to $2,580. If you want to make pamper time a regular thing, they offer two packages where you can buy points to redeem over a two-year period for $10,800 or $19,800. Or you can just swing by for a one-off session and receive 50% off your first treatment.

**Essential Spa**, (locations in Central, Elgin Street, Robinson Road, Wan Chai, Kennedy Town, Kowloon Tong, and Kowloon City)
Spa Beauté Par Zai
This award-winning spa is perfect for those looking to polish their nails, soothe out those aches and pains with a relaxing body massage, or even experience the famous “ouchless” Brazilian Wax - without breaking the bank. Award-winning makeup artist and owner Nigar Qureshi offers a range of avant-garde spa and beauty treatments at affordable prices - a 60-minute body massage costs a reasonable $690, while a Deep Cleansing Facial is $590. There's even a Cucumber Wrap for Sunburnt Skin - thank goodness!

Spa BPZ, 12/F Sea Bird House, 22-28 Wyndham Street, Central, (+852) 2524 1272

Sparadise
A little oasis of tranquillity located in the heart of Central, Sparadise is ideal for a quick and enjoyable relaxation session that won't cost a fortune. The spa uses a range of ethical and effective products that work to restore the skin’s wellbeing whilst being gentle on both you and the environment. The vibe here is warm and friendly, and each treatment begins with a consultation with an expert. Aside from playful treatments like the 75-minute Chocolate Heaven Body Scrub (75min/$800) and 24K Gold Masquerade Timeless Anti-Age Facial (90min/$1,250), Sparadise offers a range of 60-minute body massages for around $700, making this an affordable option.

Sparadise, 3 & 4/F, 60 Wellington Street, Central, (+852) 2997 2208

Exclusive Offer
Have you been to Sparadise?

Enjoy a one-time 30% off discount on any treatment during your first visit by mentioning 'Localiiz' at the time of booking.
Sense of Touch

With six locations around Hong Kong, this award-winning day spa has remained a popular pamper spot since its humble beginnings back in 2002. Aside from the incredibly warm and friendly service, highly qualified therapists, and gorgeous range of products (from some of the world’s leading beauty brands) the environment here is simply delightful. Soothing music, natural water and stone features, and aromatherapy fragrances drifting throughout the spa instantly create a calm and peaceful ambience that promotes relaxation. The treatments here are equally as impressive and fairly affordable considering just how lovely the place is, with a 60-minute body massage coming in at $850 and a Hydrating Recovery Facial costing $820. And let’s not forget their amazing alcohol-themed treatments where you get to bath in Chardonnay, dark ale beer, or sake (2hrs/$1,780) – bliss!

Ayurveda Day Spa

This bright green oasis in the heart of Soho provides a perfect sanctuary in which to enjoy an impressive range of spa treatments, covering everything from facials and waxing, to Swedish massage and skin tightening and collagen renewal. Plush sofas, heated massage tables garnished with pink orchids, and relaxing music work together to create a harmonious setting to enjoy ancient healing techniques that treat ailments such as anxiety, insomnia, stress, depression, low immunity and chronic diseases. Treatments here are fairly reasonable, with a 60-minute De-stress Massage setting you back $720, and a 60-minute Relaxing Food Massage with Paraffin Wax coming in at an affordable $290. There’s even a manicure station so you can polish your toes off afterwards!

Ayurveda Day Spa, 49 Elgin Street Soho, Central, (+852) 2656 2000

Aangsana Spa at Hotel Icon

A touch of Thailand in the heart of Kowloon, Aangsana Spa at Hotel Icon is sister to the widely-acclaimed 5 star Banyan Tree Spa in Bangkok. All therapists have been trained at the spa’s academy, so you know you’re in extremely safe (and healing) hands. Aangsana boasts an exquisite setting with only four treatment rooms, each equipped with gorgeous scented candles, a shower, and a toilet, meaning you have oodles of space to relax in. Each treatment uses products with flower and fruit extracts, so you’ll come out smelling as fresh as a daisy – or perhaps something more exotic. Surprisingly, a 60-minute Fusion or Dream Full Body Massage will only cost you $900, making Aangsana more affordable than some of its hotel counterparts.

Aangsana Spa, 9/F, Hotel Icon, 17 Science Museum Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Kowloon, (+852) 3400 1052
bliss spa at W Hong Kong

Perched on the 72nd floor of the W Hong Kong, bliss spa offers a fun, young, and trendy setting in which to enjoy sensational views of Victoria Harbour and some pretty delicious treatments to boot. Aside from the highly Instagrammable Double Chocolate Pedicure (60mins/$650), the spa menu features facials, massages, waxing, pedicure, and manicure, as well as an aroma steam room, dry sauna, and ultra-luxurious lounges to relax in. Up there with the other hotel spas on the higher end of the price range, bliss is a go to for a very special treat, with a 75-minute bliss Aroma Body Massage setting you back $1,560, and a 30-minute Oxygen Blast Facial costing $795. And if you need another reason to go, then the spa’s well-known Brownie Buffet Bar might swing it – paradise!

bliss spa, 72/F, W Hong Kong, 1 Austin Road West, Kowloon Station, (+852) 3717 2797

The Oriental Spa at The Landmark Mandarin Oriental

Spanning two entire floors of The Landmark Mandarin Oriental, The Oriental Spa is rated as one of Asia’s top spas, and it’s not hard to see why. The award-winning facility provides a blissful sanctuary features an indoor swimming pool, relaxation lounges, men’s Turkish Hamam, women’s Moroccan Rasul, plus fifteen treatment rooms, a VIP Sanctuary Suite, Pilates studio, and Ashtanga Yoga studio. Be warned though, chilling here doesn’t come cheap, with 90-minute body massages and Signature Spa Therapies starting from $1,700 – best save this one for a very special occasion.

The Oriental Spa, 15 Queen’s Road Central, Central, (+852) 2132 0188

The Peninsula Spa by ESPA

With over 12,000 square feet of space and fourteen treatment rooms – several of which boast magnificent views of Victoria Harbour – the Peninsula Spa takes pampering to a whole new level of luxury. The spa combines Oriental, Ayurvedic, and European techniques to revitalize your mind, body, and soul, all offered within a lavish setting that fuses traditional Chinese elements with contemporary flair. But luxury doesn’t come cheap, with a 90-minute Aromatherapy Massage costing $1,700 and a 90-minute Rejuvenation Facial setting you back a hefty $1,980. If you’re on a budget however, you can always opt for an Eye Lash and Eyebrow Tint for a more affordable $200.

The Peninsula Spa, The Peninsula Hong Kong, Salisbury Road, Kowloon, (+852) 2920 288

The Four Seasons Spa

Also topping the list of luxury hotel spas is the Four Seasons Spa, which covers more than 22,000 square foot of space and features seventeen treatment rooms, a Finnish sauna, crystal steam and rhassoul chamber, soft sauna, indoor pool, and Vitality Lounge. As if that wasn’t enough to lure you in, there’s also a Pedicure Lounge with built-in foot baths and private TV sets. The spa offers a whole host of goodies such as Reiki Crystal Healing (120mins/$2,630), Chi Mineral Therapy (120mins/$4,000), and 90-minute body massages starting from $1,840. If you have the urge to splurge, then the private treatment rooms are definitely worth a visit – especially when you get to enjoy your own private Jacuzzis overlooking Victoria Harbour.

Four Seasons Spa, Four Seasons Hotel, 8 Finance Street, Central, (+852) 3196 8888

Read more!

Explore the rest of our Style & Beauty section at Localiiz.
Not Just for Christmas

Things to Consider Before Adopting a Dog

Having a dog in your home can bring many benefits — helping to build a child’s confidence and teaching them how to care for living things, getting more exercise with those daily walkies, not to mention the joy of coming home to a wagging tail and friendly face. However, if you are considering welcoming a dog into your home, doing your research first is the vital step in ensuring you make the right choice for you and your furry new companion. To help you make an informed decision, we speak to three experts from animal rescue charities across Hong Kong.

First Things First:

Why Adopt?

According to Sally Andersen, Founder of Hong Kong Dog Rescue (HKDR), the number of abandoned dogs in Hong Kong is on the rise, partly due to the fact that many people continue to buy puppies from pet shops. She discusses the importance of adopting over buying:

“Every year, thousands of dogs are destroyed by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), and that doesn’t include those animals who die after being abandoned in the countryside or taken to organisations that are not ‘No Kill’. If you are considering buying – don’t. There are animals of every kind waiting to be adopted, and buying should simply never be an option. If you love animals and you are confident that you can be a responsible and loving pet owner, then why not choose adoption and save a life?

“Rescued dogs are often mistaken as second-hand, broken goods, but the reality is that the majority of them are friendly and healthy dogs and make wonderful companions. If you adopt from a reputable organisation, then you should be given all the information you need, and at HKDR, that also includes free post-adoption training support. Anyone thinking about getting a dog must consider all aspects carefully, especially if they are an expat and Hong Kong will not always be their home. Too many dogs are abandoned when their owners move to another country, and that should never be an option.

“The major mistakes people often make when choosing a dog is not thinking ahead, or being too impulsive and not doing their research about the needs of the breed types. Some people get a puppy for a young child and think they’ll take responsibility for it when they won’t – and shouldn’t. Other times, people don’t consider the time involved in taking care of an animal that is totally reliant on you for everything, or the fact that a small puppy can grow into a large adult with greater needs.”

First ask yourself these questions

Is a dog the most suitable pet for you?

Decide what sort of time you have to devote to taking proper care of an animal and base your decision on that to start with. Dogs are the most work-intensive pets as they not only require your companionship and good

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<td>Breed: Schnauzer</td>
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<td>M/F: Female</td>
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<td>Size: Small, below 10 kg</td>
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exercise, but also training and grooming. If you don’t have the time to train a dog, get an adult. Short-haired dogs are obviously easier to keep neat and tidy than long-haired ones. Dogs are also social animals who don’t handle being alone well, and this can lead to all sort of problems. It’s also just not fair or kind to have a dog that you leave on its own all day. Even cats shouldn’t be left without human companionship for long periods, but at least they don’t need exercising. If you have considered all of the above and want a friend that is loyal, loving, completely trustworthy, and will lay down its life for you, then you need a dog.

Can you give a dog adequate exercise?
Many people think that one 30-minute walk a day is all that’s required, and it’s not enough, no matter the size of the dog. Taking a dog out is great physical exercise, but it also gives a dog a chance to meet dog and human friends, play, and socialise. Dogs that aren’t socialised develop the same sort of issues that people do when kept isolated. If you work and don’t have a helper, or at the very least a dog walker, then don’t get a dog.

Do you want a trained dog or a young puppy?
If you choose the latter, then do you have the time, patience, and knowledge to train a puppy? If you have children, remember that all puppies bite with sharp teeth, and that children must never be expected to be responsible for the care or exercising of a dog, no matter how much they promise to do so.

What breed or breed mix should I get?
Most people will have a mental image of the ideal family dog, and usually that means a preference for a certain breed. What some people don’t realise is that each dog breed has specific character traits; dogs are not all the same. Some people are aware that breeds like Border Collies, Samoyeds, and Huskies need a lot of exercise, but tend to think that smaller breeds are indoor breeds and lap dogs. However, the reality is that many of them – like the Poodle, Jack Russell, Corgi, and Shiba Inu – are actually more energetic than the larger breeds and also need a lot of exercise and mental stimulation. It’s important to do your research beforehand to understand the breed’s typical behaviour pattern, exercise needs, and physical features, so you choose a dog that matches your lifestyle. This will save you from a lot of trouble later on. In short: don’t fall in love with a breed, but focus on the dog’s temperament and energy level when you first meet it. Be open to the idea that a mixed-breed dog could be your ideal companion.

Are all family members on board?
You are not the only person adopting the dog, it’s your whole family and this includes your helper and any existing pets. You should make sure that everyone in the family is on board with the decision, and confirm beforehand that no one has any severe pet allergies before bringing the dog home. It’s wise to introduce the dog to all family members, especially your children, to see if the dog of your choice also likes your kids. And don’t forget to involve your helper to see if the dog is also friendly with the household help. It’s also important to understand that all family members should be involved in the training of the dog, not just the person that adopts it — it’s a team effort.

Kirsten Mitchell, founder of volunteer-run animal rescue organisation, Kirsten’s Zoo, points out the importance of ensuring pets are permitted in your home:

Does your building and/or landlord allow pets?
If your building has a ‘No Pet Policy’, then don’t adopt and force a dog to live inside for the rest of his days. Dogs have needs too – they need to meet other dogs, to socialise, play, and interact – don’t try to turn a dog into a person – they are animals! And don’t take a young, energetic dog if you are out all day or can’t commit to two to three walks a day. Aside from this, you also need to consider if you live in an area where you will be able to take your dog for exercise. They need daily exercise, regardless of the weather and whether or not you feel like it.

Dr. Teresa Lee, welfare programme manager at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) raises the issue of home safety and financial responsibilities:

Is your home safe enough for a dog?
You need to consider if your home is animal friendly or if it needs some alterations to make it safe for your pet – not only a dog. For example, we see a lot of cases of “flying cats” where they have fallen down from a high or even low-rise building because their owner has failed to take the right precautions such as installing window screens. This is actually one of our own criteria for anyone looking to adopt a cat, because we don’t want to run the risk of animals becoming injured or paralysed from a nasty fall.

Can you afford the medical bills?
One reason that people surrender their animals is that they can no longer afford to pay the medical bills, whether the animal is sick or old and requiring medical attention.
A pet is like a child, you can’t predict when they might get sick or have an accident, which can lead to financial expenditure. Aside from this, animals need to go through a series of preventative healthcare measures such as vaccines against the most common viral diseases, monthly deworming to prevent heartworm (which is endemic in Hong Kong), as well as monthly flea and tick control. As the animal gets older, we also strongly recommend annual health checks, such as blood work to make sure their internal organs are functioning normally, and dental cleanings to ensure they don’t have dental disease which can occur in later life. It’s far easier and cheaper to prevent diseases than to treat them, but the cost of doing this still adds up, so you need to consider your finances before you commit.

**Meet Melvin**
Hong Kong Dog Rescue has reached capacity at 600 dogs and can now take in only as many as they can home. You can find most of their profiles on the Dogs Page. You can also meet a big selection of puppies every Sunday at Whiskers N Paws (from 2pm to 5pm) or any day by arrangement.

**Meet Nemo**
**Meet Mousse**

**SPCA**
SPCA Hong Kong currently has 45 dogs looking for a forever home.

Get in touch to find out more and make an appointment to meet the animals in person at one of the SPCA centres.

**Kirsten’s Zoo**
There are 26 adorable dogs awaiting adoption at Kirsten’s Zoo.

You can meet them at the Dog Adoption Sundays hosted by the charity each month.

**HKDR**
Fundraising events and volunteer opportunities

**SPCA**
Volunteer opportunities
Kirsten’s Zoo
Fundraising events and volunteer opportunities

WHERE TO ADOPT A DOG

There are animals of every kind waiting to be adopted, and buying should simply never be an option. The following organisations have dogs of all ages needing homes, and regularly host events where you can meet a selection of them, or arrange to meet them by appointment.

**Meet Mousie**
**Meet Melvin**

**Want to foster?**
All of the charities featured offer fostering programmes where you can provide a dog with a safe environment, good food, and lots of love and attention until it finds a permanent home. The advantage of fostering is that you are not only providing a much needed temporary home for an animal, but you also have the opportunity to experience life with a pet, which is particularly valuable if you are unsure about committing to adoption.

“Charities are crying out for temporary foster homes where a dog or cat can learn to be in a home and around people,” explains Kirsten Mitchell. “Adoption is for life – so if you can’t adopt, or you don’t think it will be permanent, then just foster.”

**Want to volunteer?**
Adopting and fostering aren’t the only ways that you can help make a difference to a dog’s life. From dog walking to bathing, and grooming to playing, there are plenty of ways to lend a helping hand to animal charities. If you would like to know more about the different volunteer opportunities at the organisations featured, visit their websites.

**Other charities offering adoption**
- Hong Kong Paws Foundation
- LAP Lifelong Animal Protection Charity
- Sai Kung Stray Friends

Hong Kong Dog Rescue
Hong Kong Dog Rescue has reached capacity at 600 dogs and can now take in only as many as they can home. You can find most of their profiles on the Dogs Page. You can also meet a big selection of puppies every Sunday at Whiskers N Paws (from 2pm to 5pm) or any day by arrangement.
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The best way to spread Christmas Cheer is singing loud for all to hear — or maybe just adding some festive trinkets to your humble abode. You don’t have to splash out on over-the-top Christmas trees and decorations to celebrate the holiday spirit — just take a look at these gorgeous and affordable goodies that we’ve spotted around the city.

**IKEA Rotera Lantern**

We’re a huge fan of IKEA’s gorgeous candle and lantern range all year round, but this festive red Rotera Lantern is perfect for the holiday season, especially given the subtle star design engraved on the glass. For under $50, you can pop in a tealight and light up your home with a cosy glow. Better still, why not just go all out and buy a few to dot around your home. Available in various colours, including white and black, these lanterns are just too lovely not to snag. $39.90 from IKEA (measured 21cm)

**H&M Festive Cushions**

Christmas time is all about relaxing in the comfort of your own home, and these gorgeous cotton weave cushion covers from H&M’s amazing Home range are sure to add a touch of festive magic to your bed or sofa. The eye-catching star print designs and cheerful slogan are sure to make you feel all warm and fuzzy inside – and the best part is they’re super affordable at under $100 each. You can also pick up an inner cushion from the store for around $60. $49.90 - $99.90 from H&M (measures 50cm x 50cm)

**Overstock Studded Reindeer**

You can’t beat a little bling around the festive season and we couldn’t resist including this super sparkly Studded Reindeer decoration from online retailer Overstock into the mix. Measuring 20 inches in height, and made 100% from polyfoam, this lightweight creature is the perfect way to add a touch of glamour to your home this holiday season. They are available in gold and silver, so you could even buy a pair and use them as bookends! $310 each from Overstock.com (measures 18in x 7.5in x 20in)
H&M Scented Candles

It wouldn’t feel like Christmas without the gorgeous scents of the season wafting through your apartment. This beautiful Christmas Florals Scented Mini Candle Set is perfect as a gift for friends or a little treat for yourself this holiday season – and at only $149 for the set, it would be rude not to buy them! With four fragrances to choose from, including Hyacinth, Hellebore, Amaryllis, and our favourite - Mistletoe, your humble abode will be smelling delicious all season.

Next Set of 6 Metallic Flutes and Bucket

Pop the champagne corks in style this Christmas with this gorgeous set of six metallic flutes from Next. Complete with a glass bucket to keep them upright and sitting pretty, this makes for a fantastic present for anyone who enjoys a bottle (or two) of bubbly, or a practical and stylish centrepiece for your dinner table when hosting friends during the holidays.

Cotton On Jewelled Candles

So now we’ve established we like bling, these pretty pink and blue glass Jewelled Candles had to go on our list. Not only do they look gorgeous, they smell gorgeous too, so light up these glistening gems and let the heavenly Cashmere Plum fragrance fill the room as the sparkles conjure up fantasies of snow – which we will sadly never see in Hong Kong!

Sip and Shop Pre Christmas Bazaar

Bubbly Happy Hour from 5PM to 7PM
Sponsored by ShoppingHongKong Team

November 29, 11 am - 7 pm.
Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Road, Central

ShoppingHongKong is back for the holiday season. Join the most anticipated Christmas shopping event on the island! Shop for latest niche brands including jewellery, clothing, organic skin care, accessories and many more. To make your holiday mood more uplifted, free chilled prosecco is on us!
Chocolate Orange Mousse

It’s no secret that my favourite food combination is chocolate with orange. I love it, I mean really love it. As a cook and food blogger, I love to experiment with different flavours, but I always seem to come back to this one! As I’m not the biggest fan of Christmas pudding (don’t judge me), I’ve come up with an alternative dessert that is light, airy, and full of chocolate orange flavour. This is a lovely way to finish a meal and it’s a real crowd-pleaser. The best part is, it can be made the day before and kept in the fridge, so it’s ready to eat with no last-minute fuss.

Ingredients
(Serves 2)
- 70g dark chocolate (70% cocoa)
- 1 orange
- 2 medium eggs
- 1 tbsp sugar

Method
1. Melt dark chocolate in a bowl over a pan of simmering water.
2. To this, add the zest of one orange and squeeze in the juice of half of this orange.
3. Stir the orange through the chocolate and take off the heat when completely melted.
4. Separate the eggs. Whisk the egg whites until you get very soft peaks and then add 1 tbsp of sugar. Continue to whisk until you get glossy, soft peaks, and set aside.
5. Beat the remaining egg yolks and quickly mix into the melted chocolate mixture.
6. Take one third of the whipped egg whites and beat into the chocolate to loosen the mix.
7. Finally, gently fold in the remaining whites using a metal spoon, taking care not to over mix, and spoon the mousse into a serving glass or bowl.
8. Refrigerate overnight or for at least 3 hours until the mousse has set.

Festive Kitchen

Christmas is all about feasting to your heart’s content, so why not make it a sweet holiday to remember with these delicious recipes from My Little Hong Kong Kitchen food blogger Laura Williams.
Gingerbread Bunting

I’ve recently developed a taste for spicy gingerbread biscuits (having never really liked them as a child) and was inspired by a great many Instagram posts to bake these – it would seem the food world has gone a little gingerbread crazy lately, and I just had to give them a go! This dough can be used as the basis for lots of shapes and biscuit recipes, from gingerbread men to gingerbread houses, or in my case — bunting! Once baked, these iced biscuits keep for up to two weeks in an airtight container, so they are perfect to stock up on in the days leading up to Christmas.

Ingredients
(Makes around 20 – 24 depending on size)
- 100g slightly salted butter
- 85g golden syrup
- 175g dark muscovado sugar
- 350g plain flour
- 150g icing sugar to decorate
- 6. Place in a preheated oven at 170 degrees baking paper and place back in the oven for 30-40 minutes, or until the almond top has puffed up and is golden brown.
12. Remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly before taking the tart out of the tin. Serve with a dusting of icing sugar.

Almond Topped Mince Pie Tart

Mince pies are a real festive favourite all over the world, and there are certainly no shortage of recipes to make these sweet treats at home. But, as always, I am on the lookout for new ideas and recipes, so this year I was inspired to make something on a larger scale — a half mince pie, half Bakewell tart if you like — and what a treat it was. My friends loved it and even those who aren’t crazy about traditional mince pies were impressed. This is definitely one to make over the festive season.

Ingredients
(Serves 6 - 8)
- Pastry
  - 140g plain flour
  - 70g chilled, unsalted butter
  - 2tbsp golden caster sugar
  - 1 beaten egg
  - Filling
    - 5-6 tablespoons good quality mincemeat
    - 1 orange
    - Topping
      - 70g softened, unsalted butter
      - 70g golden caster sugar
      - 42g self-raising flour
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 beaten egg
- 50g ground almonds
- 5tsp ground ginger
- 1tsp cinnamon
- 1tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 beaten egg

Method
1. First begin with the pastry. Place the plain flour and butter in a bowl and rub between your fingers until you achieve a breadcrumb consistency.
2. Stir in the golden caster sugar and beaten egg. Using a cutlery knife, mix the egg and sugar into the flour and butter, and use your hand to bring the whole mix together into a dough.
3. Flatten the dough into a disc, cover in cling film, and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Once chilled, roll the dough out until it is around 3mm thick, and place in a rectangular fluted tart tin, leaving a slight overhang in case of shrinkage.
4. Once chilled, roll the dough out until it is golden brown.
5. Line the pastry with baking paper and place baking beans inside.
6. Place in a preheated oven at 170 degrees for 5-8 minutes. Remove from the oven and set aside.

7. Place the mincemeat into a bowl and add the zest and juice of an orange. Stir to combine and fill the cooked tart case with the orange flavoured mincemeat.
8. For the frangipane topping, beat the butter together with the golden caster sugar.
9. Next, add self raising flour, ground almonds, 1 beaten egg, and the almond extract. Beat the ingredients together until you have a soft batter.
10. Using a palette knife, carefully spread the batter over the mincemeat ensuring it covers the whole of the tart with no gaps.
11. Top with a handful of flaked almonds and place back in the oven for 30-40 minutes, or until the almond top has puffed up and is golden brown.

12. Remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly before taking the tart out of the tin. Serve with a dusting of icing sugar.
Localiiz Property Picks:
Hong Kong’s Best Clubhouses

These days residential amenities are almost a requirement for many Hong Kongers — where else can you find a swimming pool, gym, and bowling alley all in one place? So let’s take a moment to drool over these luxurious clubhouses, and start saving up those pennies.

**Mayfair by the Sea I & II, Tai Po**
- Completed in 2015
- Gym / Sauna / Barbecue area / Billiard room / Function room / Swimming pool / Sports hall / Steam room / Aerobics room / Playground / Jogging & cycling track / Football field

As part of the Providence Bay housing project, Mayfair by the Sea I & II are the largest phases as of now. Located near the Hong Kong Science Park, they boast an 80-meter long outdoor pool, steam room, and beautiful promenade to watch the sun set. With amenities like these, it’s a resort-like haven.

**Contact:** GoHome

**80 Robinson Road, Mid-levels**
- Completed in 2001
- Swimming pool / Jacuzzi / Gym / Bowling alley / Squash court / Putting green / Children’s play room / Billiard room / Reading room / Dance room

Perched on the greenery at mid-levels with a panoramic view of Victoria Harbour, 80 Robinson Road has two clubhouses available for its residents - one with more active things like swimming and bowling, and the other (which used to be a historical London Mission Building) with more passive activities like reading and putting.

**Contact:** Nan Fung Group

**Lexington Hill, Kennedy Town**
- Completed in 2014
- Swimming pool / Gym / Reading lounge / Barbecue area / Function room

As buildings get taller and apartments get smaller, clubhouses in an apartment complex can be hard to come by in the central areas of Hong Kong. But with a swimming pool, gym, and even a barbecue area at Lexington Hill, these folks give residents a relaxing environment within the concrete jungle.

**Contact:** Lexington Hill

**The Coronation, Jordan**
- Completed in 2013
- Swimming pool / Jacuzzi / Gym / Spa / Table tennis room / Music room / Library / Billiard room / Golf room / Function room / Badminton court / Children’s play area / Barbecue area

Inspired by the Palace of Versailles in France, it doesn’t get more lavish than this. The Coronation has more than your standard clubhouse, with a collection of fine art pieces elegantly decorating the interior, and personal services like their door-to-door tailor service. Here you can live like true royals.

**Contact:** The Coronation
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