Your Guide to Hong Kong Living

The Best Instagram Spots in Hong Kong

Where to Buy Affordable Art for Your Home

The Coolest Creative Classes for Kids

The Biggest and Best Events this Arts Month
The world’s best electronic music festival in Hong Kong on Mar 17 featuring 40+ DJs/artists and 20+ creative technology experiences. 
tickets at sonarhongkong.com
The Chinese New Year celebrations may be over, but we’ve certainly got a lot to look forward to in the 852 as Hong Kong Arts Month returns, bringing with it a cracking line-up of events spanning the whole creative spectrum (see what’s in store on page 6).

We hope our arty issue of the Localiz Digest gives you lots of inspiration on how to celebrate creativity and nurture your own talents here in the city — whether that means snapping some incredible shots of our city on Instagram (with a little help from the pros on page 11), scouting for gorgeous prints to decorate your apartment (we’ve sussed out the best stores on page 30), or watching your little ones dip their toes in the world of art, music, dance, or theatre.

As if that wasn’t enough to get us excited, we’ve also got the Rugby Sevens to look forward to this April, and we all know what that means — costumes and carnage! Find out where to buy the coolest, weirdest, and most hilarious get-ups to grace the South Stand on page 26.

As always, we’d like to thank all of our readers and supporters who continue to follow our adventures on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter every day. We wouldn’t be here without you! So here’s to you — and a fabulous Year of the Dog!

Sophie Pettit, Managing Editor
sophie@localiiz.com

Show Us Your City - Tag #localiz

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 adventures 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 Localiz umbrella and be featured on our social media. But we have hundreds to give away, so keep tagging your pics with #localiz 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 earned a spot in our Snap of the Week album. Happy snapping!

Kung Hei Fat Choy!

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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.

**THE 46TH HONG KONG ARTS FESTIVAL**

From now until March 24, our city will be swamped in arts and culture during The 46th Hong Kong Arts Festival, where art lovers from all around the globe come together to indulge in endless exhibitions and live performances. Spanning across multiple forms such as theatre, Chinese opera, and dance, the festival’s show-stopping schedule of spectacular events will keep you entertained all month long. Ticket sales have already begun, so hurry and book your ticket now on URBTIX or Ticketflap.

**ART CENTRAL**

Hong Kong’s most stylish and cutting-edge art event returns at the Central Harbourfront this March 27 to April 1. Art Central is sure to fill up your day with large-scale installations, engaging talks, and some of the finest artwork from the hottest names around. Featuring over 100 leading galleries from all around the world, the festival is also a foodie paradise during Arts Month, with StrEAT Central showcasing some of the city’s hottest eateries in an alfresco dining experience. So what are you waiting for? Get on Ticketflap and bag yourself a ticket.

**18+ CENTRAL**

Things will be heating up at Central Harbourfront from April 5 to 8 as 18+ Central tackles the hush-hush subject of sex and pleasure through a spectacular line-up of Las Vegas style stage shows, a VR play-zone, seduction workshops, and numerous photo ops. There will even be a chance to meet some of the biggest adult stars from all over the world. Fighting to challenge the strongly male-oriented and vulgar perception of adult expos, 18+ Central is the city’s first adult-themed carnival and is fully charged to break taboos, so grab your tickets on Ticketflap.
March

Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope in Concert
March 1

Hardwell China Residency at Club Cubic
March 3

Women’s Adventure Film Tour
March 4

Hong Kong French Theatre Festival
March 7 – 10

Hong Kong Restaurant Week
March 8 – 18

John Legend Live in Hong Kong
March 10

Russell Peters Deported World Tour
March 13

Hong Kong Flower Show
March 16 – 25

Sónar Hong Kong
March 17

Hong Kong International Film Festival
March 19 – April 5

Taste of Hong Kong
March 22 – 25

Harbour Art Fair
March 23 – 26

Asia Contemporary Art Show
March 24 – 26

The 46th Hong Kong Arts Festival
Until March 24

HKwalls Street Art Festival
March 24 – April 1

The Chainsmokers Live in Hong Kong
March 27

Art Central
March 27 - April 1

James Blunt the Afterlove Asia Tour
March 29

Art Basel
March 29 – 31

Katy Perry Witness: The Tour
March 30

Zedd Echo Tour Live in Hong Kong
March 31

April

LANY Live in Hong Kong
April 3

Hong Kong International Film Festival
Until April 5

18+ Central
April 5 – 8

Hong Kong Rugby Sevens
April 6 – 8

Harbour Arts Sculpture Park
Until April 11

Hong Kong Whisky Festival
April 14

The Week Music Festival
April 15 – 21

Cirque du Soleil
April 19 – June 3

The Script Live in Hong Kong
April 24
Hong Kong Arts Month returns this March to fill our urban jungle with explosive waves of creativity all around. Showcasing a plethora of work from world-renowned artists, stars on the rise, and a wealth of home-grown talent, we’re definitely in for a treat. So whip out your diaries and start planning your month.

The 46th Hong Kong Arts Festival
Filling up our city with all kinds of art and culture from now until March 24, the 46th Hong Kong Arts Festival brings an international programme of multiple art forms spanning theatre, Chinese opera, and dance. Bag yourself tickets to unique shows like Whipped Cream by the American Ballet Theatre, amazing dance performances like Playing Hooky by PPS Danse, and other highlights like the thrilling production of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Britain’s National Theatre.

Until March 24, locations and ticket prices vary www.hk.artsfestival.org

The Hong Kong French Theatre Festival
After huge success from last year, the Hong Kong French Theatre Festival returns with five amazing performances taking place from March 7 to 10. Audiences can dive right in with shows including Le jeu de l’amour et du hasard (The Game of Love and Chance), Politiquement Correct (Politically Correct), Oscar et la dame Rose (Oscar and the Lady in Pink), Dans la peau de Cyrano (In Cyrano's Shoes), and Le bois dont je suis fait (What I am made of). All profits from the festival will go towards supporting Pour Un Sourire d’Enfant, a charity dedicated to providing care for underprivileged children in Cambodia.

Until March 7 - 10, locations vary and tickets range from $120 - $300, www.thkftf.com

Hong Kong International Film Festival
Back to take over the city from March 19 to April 5, the Hong Kong International Film Festival will be screening over 250 titles from more than 55 countries across various cultural venues all over town. Recognised as one of Asia’s most reputable platforms for filmmakers, industry professionals, and film enthusiasts, the festival will bring the audience a cinematic experience like never before, featuring a series of world-class films, seminars hosted by leading filmmakers around the world, film exhibitions, and more. This is one festival movie buffs will not want to miss.
Harbour Art Fair at Harbour City

More than one hundred pieces of innovative artwork from over 50 emerging Korean galleries will be showcased at the Marco Polo Hotel at this year’s Harbour Art Fair from March 23 to 26. With a line-up of art talks, workshops, tasting sessions, and plenty of kid-friendly activities to keep your little ones busy, the fair is the perfect place to introduce youngsters to the world of art in a fun and unique way.

March 23 - 26, 7/F, Marco Polo Hong Kong Hotel, 3 Canton Road, Harbour City, Tsim Sha Tsui, tickets cost $100, www.harbourartfair.com

Asia Contemporary Art Show

With a Spring and Fall edition occurring annually, the Asia Contemporary Art Show is the only art fair in Hong Kong that takes place twice a year. Offering a uniquely intimate experience for art lovers from March 24 to 26, guests will get to explore thousands of artworks from around the globe, and have the exclusive chance to meet and engage with some of the world’s most interesting and promising artists at the fair’s recurring Artist Dialogues section. Featuring a wide array of original paintings, limited edition sculptures, and photography available for purchase, this is one event not to miss if you’re looking to add to your art collection.

March 24 - 26, Conrad Hotel, One Pacific Place, Queensway, Admiralty, tickets cost $250 (special 2-for-1 with advance purchase) www.asiacontemporaryart.com

HKwalls Street Art Festival

For a truly immersive art experience, head down to Wong Chuk Hang between March 24 and April 1 and catch a glimpse of international and local artists as they take their talents to the streets for this year’s HKwalls Street Art Festival. Returning for the fifth consecutive year, the nine-day festival allows art lovers to get up close and personal with art and have the rare opportunity to witness each artist creating their own masterpiece. Bursting with wild creativity and bright expression, this hip and modern affair is all set to light up the industrial district of Wong Chuk Hang like never before.

March 24 - April 1, Wong Chuk Hang industrial area, free to see, www.hkwalls.org

Art Central

The wait is almost over – with Art Central making it back to our Central Harbourfront from March 24 to April 1, this year’s show promises to be bigger and better than ever before. Featuring over 100 international galleries, including 30 who are making their Art Central debut, guests will have the chance to see everything from stunning large-scale installations, to fun interactive art where participants involving giant Jenga blocks! Need a break? Head to the StrEAT Central where some of Hong Kong’s hottest eateries will be showcased in an alfresco pop-up dining experience. So what are you waiting for? Get your tickets now.

March 27 - April 1, Central Harbourfront Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Road, Central, tickets cost $125 - $500, www.artcentralhongkong.com

Art Basel

Running from March 29 to 31, Art Basel will be dazzling Hong Kong’s local art scene with over a whopping 248 premier galleries from 32 different countries, all gathered under one roof for one of the biggest art events during this year’s Hong Kong Arts Month. With at least half of all the pieces on display hailing from the Asia-Pacific region, the Hong Kong edition of this global art show is unique to say the least.

March 29 – 31, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Expo Drive, Wan Chai, tickets cost $250 - $850 (three-day pass), www.artbasel.com/hong-kong

Blooming at the Junction

To celebrate the grand opening of the new Korean Cultural Centre in Hong Kong, a specially curated opening exhibition, Blooming at the Junction, will be held at PMQ until March 31. Guests will get to experience traditional expressions of colour portrayed by 19 renowned Korean contemporary artists, through mixed forms of paintings, photography, and installations. Full of colours and culture, this exhibition will take you on a journey with art pieces dating back to as early as the 1970s, right up to the modern art culture today.

Until March 31, PMQ, 7/F, Block B, 5 Aberdeen Street, Central, free to see, www.pmq.org.hk/event/blooming-at-the-junction

Harbour Arts Sculpture Park

Welcoming the city’s first international Harbour Arts Sculpture Park until April 11, the Central and Western District Promenade, and various spaces in Wan Chai, are displaying 21 incredible sculptures by 19 world-renowned artists and local talents. Free to view by the public, this open-plan museum is accompanied by an extensive programme of free workshops and educational activities that allow the public to further engage with the wonderful world of art. If you’re as excited as we are about this epic sculpture park, then make sure to swing by and check it out.

Until April 11, locations vary www.harbourarts.hk
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FIVE MINUTES WITH

Hong Kong’s Cheekiest Street Artist, Szabotage

Whether he’s dropping his drawers during Secret Walls art battles, spray painting his famous koi carp tag on walls around the city, or giving bars an edgy makeover, street artist Szabotage sure knows how to keep us on our toes. We catch up with the British-born talent to find out what inspired his famous koi character and where to find his favourite works around the city.

The famous koi by Szabotage

What’s your favourite piece that you’ve created in Hong Kong?
Oh shame, it was buffed a while ago! It was Hong Kong on my Mind on Square Street in Sheung Wan. The shop owner realised the success of the painting with tourists and locals, as it was being used for fashion shoots and pop videos, so she wanted me to alter the painting to incorporate her shop logo into the artwork. I flatly refused as it would ruin the painting, and she never offered to pay me as an artist. Instead, she decided to remove the entire artwork. It is her wall I guess, but ironic as it is standard practice to pay to use work commercially. Totally my frustration with Hong Kong.

Tell us about your Le Boudoir makeover. How did it come about and what’s the inspiration?
Through ArtQube, I was asked to create a satirical take on their existing interior — to Szabotage Le Boudoir, and was given free rein to do my thing. Le Boudoir is a very cool speakeasy bar and the owners are renowned for their great cocktails, and with ArtQube’s guidance they were confident to let my humour and art imagination run wild. The space was rife with interesting artefacts, detailed decor, and old-fashioned paintings, so I had a lot to work with. I had a great time playfully trashing the interior with rebellious neon colours, giving the space an extra dynamic when the black light is turned on. Some of the paintings I vandalised with humour, turning a traditional piece into work that literally takes on the themes associated with Le Boudoir.

Any more makeovers on the horizon?
There’s lots in the pipeline and I am hopefully going to be doing more installations and exhibitions. Creating art is my addiction and something I do on an everyday basis, like a goldfish in a bowl on caffeine.

“Creating art is my addiction and something I do on an everyday basis, like a goldfish in a bowl on caffeine.”

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Where did the inspiration for your famous fish come from?
Long story short, I offered to paint a wall for a restaurant which wanted a fish design. After eight or nine drafts the owner said it looked too ‘weird’ and that I couldn’t draw fish. Rather than take offence, I decided to paint the koi everywhere. So, it’s a bit of a f*** you, of course I can!

What has it come to represent for you?
It’s a fish out of water. The koi represents to me a period of doubt in my work, and then the gift and jubilation of realising it doesn’t matter what other people think – just do your stuff! The koi is jumping with joy and freedom. It also has a very strong lucky meaning in Asia so it seems the perfect symbol for me to use.

Where can we see your first koi masterpiece?
Good question, I don’t know to be honest, as these back streets always look the same in the dark. However, it would have been in the Sai Ying Pun area.

Szabotage lets loose at Le Boudoir
How do you keep your work exciting?
It’s important to me to be diverse as an artist. You never know when you’re inspired by an experience or a testing moment. Lately, I’ve painted rooftops, kayaks, cars, and motorbikes – anything that might stay still long enough. Last year, I made a 30m x 20m koi – it rocks doing the big stuff! I hope to see that piece from the air next time I’m flying out of Hong Kong airport. I’m also exploring the opposite and creating a miniature series. So, there’s lots of variety in my work!

So what has the future got in store?
I have a lot of plans for the year ahead! I’ve learnt to say yes to anything that has legs and that’s not just in Hong Kong. I enjoy exploring opportunities and not knowing where they will take me. This year I’m planning to do some painting in Beijing and exploring Asia more. It’s amazing what comes your way when you’re active — so I’m on it like a car bonnet!

Check out Szabotage’s incredible artwork on Facebook and Instagram @szabotage_me. and www.szabotage.com.hk
The Best Instagram Spots in Hong Kong: 

AS CHOSEN BY OUR FAVOURITE IGERS

The Bank of China Tower

For 30-year-old world traveler and blogger Diego Guzman @diegovista, nothing beats this epic landmark. “I love this place in particular because I am a huge fan of it’s linear design”, the talented Texan tells Localiiz. “When captured properly, it makes for an iconic photo, not just Instagram-worthy, but something you can frame at home.”

Diego first discovered this spot when he missed the last MTR home while out late at night chasing rooftop photo ops. Walking back home from Causeway Bay, he passed right in front of the Bank of China building and instantly fell in love with it. But what makes it so special?

“Photos from this location are less common on Instagram because they’re not too easy to capture,” he tells us. “There are quite a few buildings near the tower which presents a challenge for both amateur and sometimes professional photographers. This particular spot is definitely a challenge to capture.”

Top IG tip: Take advantage of Hong Kong’s architecture, use the leading lines to make your subject stand out and capture the beautiful symmetry. Always remember to use location tags on your posts, respond to as many comments as possible, and research popular local hashtags. I recommend #localiiz as it’s one of my favorites. (aw shucks)

The Streets of Sheung Wan

For mobile addict, writer, and urbanscape shooter Jason Wincuinas @torridtext, neighbourhoods are where you find a real city, and Sheung Wan is where it’s at.

“I love any city’s canyon like streets, where the urban world becomes domineering. Coming originally from a rural background, cityscapes like that feel like the future to me; and the future is where I’ve always wanted to live. Hong Kong’s glass skyline is perfect in that way. But if you go behind it and get down to street level (I’m no rooftopper), you’ll find a past (and sometimes a derailed future) that is photogenically personal, genuine, and gritty.
“As soon as you pass the Grand Millennium Plaza on Wing Lok Street, the shops of dried seafood and Chinese Medicines compel you into Sheung Wan’s maze of tradition and history. You can also find Possession Point, where the British formally took control of the Island. That convergence is quintessential Hong Kong. Mornings are great for shooting here as shops start to open and dried seafood deliveries wait on the side walks. Lunch hour is also spectacular because of the variety of faces — bankers to shirtless laborers, all flocking to cheap noodle shops and experimental eateries.”

**Top IG tip:** Try every angle, and use more than one app. I fell in love with photography in another century, when every shot cost time and money (film, photo paper, chemicals etc). With digital and mobile photography, those restrictions are gone. Take a thousand shots and play with all the angles. Depending on how you look at it, anything can be beautiful, foreboding, or funny.

**Chungking Mansions**

Minneapolis-born street photographer Michael Kistler [@mdkistler](https://www.instagram.com/mdkistler/) has been exploring Hong Kong and capturing incredible shots with his camera ever since he arrived from Tokyo a few years ago. His absolute favourite spot to capture though is the Chungking Mansions area in Tsim Sha Tsui. “Day or night, this area never disappoints. It’s got a bit of everything: neon lights; movement and motion; gritty back alleys; and of course a diverse cast of characters!”

Michael regularly hosts street photography workshops and had previously heard (rather infamously) about Chung King Mansions and wanted to check it out right away. “Even now when mentioning it, people tend to associate it with its stories past,” he says.

So what sets it apart? “Really, just the atmosphere of the area; TST is just a short hop from Central, but feels like worlds away. Photographically, I love the bold colours, the grit and grime, and the frenetic pace. There is a distinctively cinematic quality to shooting there and a definite edge as well. This makes it great for shooting at night and in the rain, when you can take advantage of neon-soaked wet pavements.”

**Top IG tip:** Shoot — a lot! And carve out a unique style for yourself without worrying about what other people on Instagram are doing. I have seen too many instgrammers just copying what others do instead of developing their own identity and body of work. Don’t be afraid to do your own thing.

Find out about Michael’s workshops at [www.michaelkistlerphotography.com](http://www.michaelkistlerphotography.com)

**Shek Kip Mei and Sham Shui Po**

The public housing estates of Shek Kip Mei and Sham Shui Po are the go-to spots for Kay Kulkarni [@kulkimoose](https://www.instagram.com/kulkimoose/). “The area is absolutely packed with history and culture. A lot of people, locals included, are unaware that a huge fire on Christmas Eve in 1953 left over 50,000 without any shelter. To re-house the homeless the Government erected a 29-block housing estate, many of which stands to date.”

Born in India, but growing up in Kowloon, Kay was always aware of the vicinity but his visits were far and few — something that changed once he took up photography.

“The great thing about Shek Kip Mei and Sham Shui Po is the sheer number of places you can explore. You can visit one of the many public housing estates for a glimpse of real Hong Kong life, head to the Jockey Club Creatives Art Centre to browse the local talent, or even check out the Yuen Po Street Bird Garden. Not to mention, some of the best ‘dai pai dongs’ can be found in the neighbourhood if you get a little peckish.

“In the morning you can witness the locals performing tai chi here. The afternoon will give you an opportunity to capture kids returning home from school, and in the evening you can take a short hike up the nearby hill for a stunning sunset.”

**Top IG tip:** Candid images can be very...
appealing, but be respectful of people’s privacy and try to ask for permission if you aim to capture a subject’s face.

**On Board the Aqua Luna**

At sea is the place to be, according to explorer Harshil Bhasin @eatravelovegram. Born and raised in Hong Kong, he loves to view his home city from the various perspectives the iconic junk provides.

“As you board the Aqua Luna in TST you get to see the chaos of the city, which fades into the distance as you sail away and see the beauty of Hong Kong and its different personalities.”

Harshil always loved taking ferry rides across the harbour and after 22 years of living in Hong Kong, he decided to take the Aqua Luna cruise for a pre-dinner date one evening and was fascinated by the views.

“You get to witness a traditional Kowloon side view by the clock tower, before heading over to Central Ferry Pier, where you see a cosmopolitan view of Hong Kong Island with the ifc, Bank of China, HSBC building, observation wheel, and rest of the illuminated concrete jungle. The boat then escapes to the middle of Victoria Harbour, where views of both sides of Hong Kong can be enjoyed. The best time to shoot here is at sunset (6pm onwards) when you get hues of blue and pink, before the lights decorate the city at night.”

**Top IG tip:** When you see a moment just shoot it. Not all captions have to be detailed, sometimes an emoji will do. Keep your profile visually consistent with an attractive appeal.

**Des Voeux Road and Jubilee Road**

According to photographer and stylist Tricia Darling @triciadaringphotography, the corner of Des Voeux Road and Jubilee Road in Central is a hub of activity and a prime spot for capturing the energy of Hong Kong.

“I always find great moments down here. The mash up of people, trams, crosswalks, natural light, and building reflections create endless possibilities. I walk a lot, and chase the light as it peeps through the buildings, causing shadows and reflections. I also take time to identify interesting spots from pedestrian walkways when I’m riding on buses and trams.”

Tricia has lived in Hong Kong for seven years and draws her creative inspiration from the ever changing urban environment. “Hong Kong is the most dynamic, effervescent city I have lived in and I’m extremely grateful and enamoured every time I shoot. With this particular spot, there are so many possibilities and moments, lines, and juxtapositions. When the light shines down Jubilee Street it lights up the whole intersection in a really unique and beautiful way. Different weather conditions also produce great results. Add in rain or puddles and it’s a beautiful reflective scene, accentuated by umbrellas.”

**Top IG tip:** Shoot constantly and try new approaches. Read photography books, support fellow photographers, and meet up in person to explore and shoot together.

**Braemer Hill Lookout**

For Musheer Ahmed @theeyeofthepanda_hk the best spot is a lookout on Braemer Hill.

“I discovered it through a friend who had hiked there. You need to take a flight of stairs, and then walk on the trail for about twenty minutes before you reach the spot, which is hidden behind a couple of bushes. It’s fairly accessible and definitely worth the trek.”

Musheer is so awestruck by the view that he’s hiked there a few times to enjoy the scenery and capture the National Day fireworks display while perched on a rock with his tripod. “This particular spot is great for capturing sunsets and the night skyline, so get there an hour or so before sunset and stay for an hour after.”

**Top IG tip:** Show the world your view of what’s around you. The best grammers I know have a unique perspective on normal things, such as angles at which the photograph is shot and framed, and a theme for the page, such as black and white portraits — or shoes! Above all, photography is about patience, it pays off in the end.
Spicy Indian Cuisine at JoJo

Hong Kong’s most well-known and loved Indian restaurant JoJo is whipping up quite the feast with its extensive new menu which features traditional dishes inspired by age-old recipes from various regions in India. Titled The Grand Trunk (GT) Road, the menu takes diners on a culinary journey from Chittagong, Bangladesh to West Bengal, Delhi, Lahore and Peshawar in Pakistan and Kabul, Afghanistan.

Signature dishes include Dhansak (a Parsi/Zoroastrian dish made with lamb and lentils); Jujeh Kebab (an Iranian specialty cooked overnight with saffron marinated grilled boneless chicken); and Afghani Baigan (a popular eggplant dish with yogurt, garlic, and Afghan mint). Excellent quality meat, tangy homemade sauces, and just the right level of spice make this a top choice when it comes to curbing those curry cravings.

As the name suggests, JoJo has a very relaxed vibe, making it an ideal spot for a laid-back lunch, dinner, after-work drinks, or even early breakfast of parathas, southern dosas with unlimited chai tea. A buffet lunch is served daily with food from street corners, curries, and seasonal favourites, while dinner options include sharing portions from the menu selection of street food and little bites or curries, mains, sides, and desserts.

JoJo Indian Cuisine, 2F David House, 37-39 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, (+852) 2527 3776

Saucy Mexican Dishes at Los Sotano

Serving up possibly the best guacamole in the world – or at least Hong Kong – casual Mexican bar and restaurant Los Sotano is serving up a storm of saucy treats in its basement kitchen which pair perfectly with a tequila cocktail or two. The Mexicano Restaurante Superior Menu includes a selection of mouth-watering appetizers, including Smoked Salmon on a Tostada with cream cheese, capers, and dill; two Ceviche choices of Vallarta with Sea Bass, and Aguachile de Camaron with Shrimp, and seven different Street Tacos like the Al Pastor (spit roasted pork shoulder), Camarones (shrimp and chili), Pescado (beer battered fish), Ribeye, Avocado (with melted jack cheese), and Southern Fried Chicken. The real star of the show though is the unbelievably refreshing Table Side Guacamole, served with salsa, jalapeño, parsley, Tapatio sauce, fresh lime juice, and pomegranate seeds for a sour kick.

Main dishes include the heavenly Tequila USDA Ribeye, rich Duck Carnitas, and cheesy Lasagna Mexicano layered with tortillas. These are equally tender, succulent, and bursting with flavour. Appreciating that every meaty feast needs a sweet ending, there are three desserts to choose from: Mexican Chocolate Flan, Freshly baked Waffle Taco with ice cream and berries, and the clear winner, Churros drizzled in hot chocolate sauce. Of course, it

New On The Menu:

5 Hot Places to Try

Things are heating up in restaurant kitchens across Hong Kong, with spicy Indian curries, saucy Mexican dishes, and exotic tiki cocktails featuring among the hottest new menu items.
wouldn’t be a proper Mexican affair without tequila, and while the list of blended cocktails is extremely alluring, the Jamaica with hibiscus tea syrup is an absolute delight.

Los Sotano Basement, 21 D’Aguilar Street, Lan Kwai Fong, Central, (+852) 2970 3887

Luau of Doom at Lily & Bloom
Upholding its reputation for creating eccentric American celebration concepts (who can forget that epic MIRACLE Christmas makeover), the popular haunt has unveiled yet another fun themed night that is sure to wash away the Monday blues. Bringing all the mystery and spookiness of tiki culture to the 852, Luau of Doom invites Hong Kongers to escape the bustling city, throw on a flower lei, and enter a tropical realm filled with tiki tat and potent new concoctions.

From 6pm till late, guests can sip on the delightfully sweet Banana Daiquiri ($150), the lethal ‘34 Zombie ($180 and limited to two orders per person), and the exotic Bali Bali ($170) with rum, gin, cognac, and pineapple. As if that wasn’t enough to lure us to our doom, there are also some very local dishes up for grabs, namely the Deep-fried Duck Blood Curd ($99).

If dim sum is more your bag, you’ll love the adorable new moustached Peanut Papa Buns ($49 for 3 pieces) — definitely one for the gram! The new mango Hawthorn Pudding Cup with Cotton Cloud ($49) also makes for an impressive shot, especially when served by waiters dressed in retro boat-dweller uniforms against a backdrop of typhoon shelter-inspired graffiti.

Yum Cha, 2/F, Emperor Watch & Jewellery Centre, 8 Russell Street, Causeway Bay, (+852) 2323 1288

New Characters at Yum Cha
The quirky restaurant with the most “grammable” buns in Hong Kong has opened a new branch in the heart of Causeway Bay, along with an exclusive side menu of twenty dishes that pay homage to the city’s long-lost typhoon shelter cuisine of the 60s. The new menu includes tangy Typhoon-shelter Style Fried Whole Crab with Dried Chilli Garlic Flakes, Fried Noodle with Crab Oil ($119), Steamed Eggs with Clams ($129), and a whopping signature Seafood Platter. If you can handle it, there are also some very local dishes up for grabs, namely the Deep-fried Duck Blood Curd ($99).

If you can’t decide what to order then you can opt for the Tasting Menu and tuck into a selection of starters, mains, and desserts priced at $280 per person. Just make sure you leave room for an Aperol Spritz, Negroni, and Bellini, ($90 each) — go on, try all three.

And arrive before the shutters open at 12pm for lunch, and early enough for dinner, as Pici takes no reservations, and this is one carb-fest you do not want to miss.

Pici, G/F, No 24-26 Aberdeen Street, Central, (+852) 2755 5233

New Pici Branch in Central
Aside from boasting a huge 1,600 square-foot venue with outdoor terrace, the new Pici branch on Aberdeen Street offers a whole host of delicious, affordable, and carb-tastic dishes perfect for sharing with friends any time of the day. While beloved signatures from the original Wan Chai venue remain, new exclusives include the Garganelli with duck ragu ($130), creamy Plin Ravioli ($140), and heavenly Girasole Carbonara ($120).

Mouth watering yet? Then maybe a velvety Tiramisu or creamy Raspberry Panna Cotta (both $55) will get you going.
There’s no question that art and wine go hand in hand, so with Hong Kong Arts Month upon us, now is the perfect time to swat up on your knowledge. Whether you’re looking for a fun night out with friends, or taking your first step towards becoming a wine connoisseur, these top courses and events will get you there in no time.

**Wine tasting courses and events**

**Beginners Fun**

Prime Cellar

With regular wine tasting events held every month, Prime Cellar is an expert when it comes to sourcing the best bottles. Apart from having highly knowledgeable staff, who are on hand to advise you on the next tipple to fill up your glass, they also boast an excellent venue fit for private gatherings with your nearest and dearest. Their popular wine tasting events always fill up fast, so make sure to reserve your spot in advance.

**Prime Cellar**, www.primecellar.biz

1/F, CS Tower, 50 Wing Lok Street, Sheung Wan, (+852) 2523 2111 / 3690 8630

**Tasting events cost around $100 - $300**

La Cabane a Vin

Looking for a plate of French style nibbles to pair with your vino? Sitting quietly on Hollywood Road, La Cabane a Vin is the perfect spot for a cozy night out. Not only is it stocked up on a huge variety of wines from all over the world, it also has a wide selection of the finest cheeses flown in from Paris. Wine tastings are held every two weeks on a Friday night, so head over and treat yourself to a worldly library of some of the most amazing sips around — or better still, hire it privately.

**La Cabane a Vin**, www.lacabane.hk

B/F, 97 Hollywood Road, Central, (+852) 2517 0186

**Tasting events cost around $200**

The Flying Winemaker

Since launching in 2011, The Flying Winemaker (aka Australian expert Eddie McDougall) has quickly made a name for himself on the local wine scene. Looking to stir up a vino-revolution in our city through a combination of wine tastings, events promotions, and educating classes, McDougall strives to empower people to look beyond the snobbery and drink the good stuff.

Aside from popular signature events such as Rosé Revolution and the Asian Wine Review, the team also specialise in hosting unique wine experiences such as dinners, tastings, and activities at their venue. So if you’re ever running low on ideas for a fun night out, check out their events calendar and get inspired.


6/F, Yu Yuet Lai Building, 43 - 55 Wyndham Street, Central, (+852) 2522 2187

**Tasting events cost around $350 - $400**

Scarlett Café & Wine Bar

If you’re looking for some guaranteed fun, then Scarlett Café & Wine Bar is the place to go. With an impressive wine cellar on full display, and a weekly recommendation of wines by the glass, this modern French style bistro is perfect for any occasion. Scarlett regularly hosts a variety of wine tastings events and workshops throughout the month, paired with delicious food promotions and live music. From a Rhône Valley wine masterclass to a skillful blind wine tasting, there’s plenty to keep your taste buds happy.

They also offer monthly wine dinners that includes a five-course meal with wine pairing, so check out their Facebook page and make your way to one of their upcoming events.

**Scarlett Café & Wine Bar**, www.facebook.com/scarletthk, 2 Austin Avenue, Tsim Sha Tsui, (+852) 3565 6513

**Tasting events cost around $500**
Winebeast
Serving up everything from new wines that have just hit the market, to a classic châteaux’s private collection, the impressive Winebeast shop in Wan Chai has a bottle to suit every occasion and budget. With several wine tasting events hosted each month at their Michelin star quality restaurant, Le Bistro Winebeast, this is a great option for those who appreciate the finer things in life. And if you become a member of their Privilege Club, you can enjoy discounts on all your favourite wines and attend their tasting events for free. Now there’s a beast of an offer!

Winebeast, www.wine-beast.com
G/F, Tai Yip Building, 141 Thomson Road, Wan Chai, (+852) 2782 6599
Tasting events cost around $500 - $600

Ginsberg+Chan
Specialising in sourcing rare vintage wines from private collectors and traders around the world, Ginsberg+Chan have some of the finest bottles you will find. What’s more, their tasting room is conveniently located in the heart of Central, so if you’re ever in need of a post-work tipple, their Wine Wednesday events will definitely hit the spot. While you’re there, check out their beautiful outdoor space which is perfect for throwing parties.

Ginsberg+Chan, www.ginsbergchan.com
6/F, Loke Yew Building, 50 - 52 Queen’s Road Central, (+852) 2504 2221
Tasting events cost around $650 - $1,000

Kerry Wines
It’s always tough trying to find the perfect wine for a dinner party, and even tougher to find one that suits everyone’s tastes. Enter Kerry Wines. Not only will these wine-savvy experts match you with unique wines catering to your specific needs, they will also give you advice and tips on how to best enjoy them, such as the right serving temperatures and best food pairing options to impress your friends. They also host regular events such as Cheese and Wine Wednesdays, and wine tasting dinners at different locations in Hong Kong, so there’s bound to be one near you.

Kerry Wines, www.kerrywines.com
20/F, Kerry Centre, 683 King’s Road, Quarry Bay, (+852) 2169 7700
Call for a price quotation

Serious Business VINEX Wine Academy
From wine appreciation classes for beginners, to Barossa master classes for pros, VINEX Wine Academy caters for everyone. Not only that, they also host a number of lifestyle workshops with music, art jamming, cooking, and more — all incorporated with wine of course. Classes and workshops for English speakers are available as soon as there are enough people signed up, so grab your fellow wine-loving friends now and enrol in one of their courses. Cheers!

VINEX Wine Academy, www.vinexwineacademy.com, 19/F, 88 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai, (+852) 2406 0960
Wine courses start from $1,850

Asia Wine Service & Education Centre
Marked as a leader in wine education and training, the centre plays a vital role in Hong Kong’s wine industry. Their extensive portfolio of certification programmes allow all levels of wine enthusiasts to explore and learn all there is to know about the good stuff. To date, the centre has trained over 100,000 wine professionals and enthusiasts in Asia, so you know there’s no going wrong with these pros.

Wine courses start from $2,000

Sommelier
This all-in-one service provides everything you need to become a seasoned connoisseur. From professional services for corporate clients, to helping individuals hold private events, the team will guide you through every step of your wine journey. Aside from teaching every WSET level one to three awards, they also offer a range of tasting events each month for those who want to take things slowly. Check out their events and courses and take your first step to becoming the wine expert you’ve always wanted to be.

3/F, Tower 1, Enterprise Square, 9 Sheung Yuet Road, Kowloon Bay, (+852) 3586 9388
Wine courses start from $2,000
THE ONE AND ONLY
Georgie Fame
Godfather of the UK Jazz and Rhythm & Blues scene, big band leader, raconteur, entertainer, jazz historian, singer and songwriter extraordinaire.

LIVE at Grappa's Cellar
Sat March 10th, 8:30pm
Sun March 11th, 8pm
Dinner (a la carte) available from 6:30pm

with Eugene Pao (guitar), Paul Candelaria (bass) and Anthony Fernandez (drums)

Tickets $420 until Feb 23rd
$480 after

Tickets from Ticketflap.com
or
Grappa's Cellar, B/F Jardine House, Central, Tel 2521-2322
Get Down! A Guide to Hong Kong’s best Dance classes

If you struggle to find time to hit the gym during the week, but can’t tear yourself away from the dance floor come Saturday night, why not work something you love into your fitness routine and take up dance classes in Hong Kong? From ballet to Bollywood, pole dancing to break dancing, our city is full of fun ways to keep in shape.
**Ballet**

Twinkle Dance Company

In addition to their popular junior classes, the Twinkle Dance Company also offers dance tuition for adults. Whether you are a complete beginner, or have some experience under your belt, these classes will deepen your understanding of classical ballet, improve your muscular strength and flexibility, and fine tune the elegance of your movements. The studio also runs a Ballet with Mommy class, which allows parents and their budding ballerinas, from the age of 14 months, to learn the basics together.

Twinkle Dance Company,
[www.twinkledance.com](http://www.twinkledance.com)

Locations in Central, Causeway Bay, and Wong Chuk Hang, (+852) 6608 6689

$600 / 6 classes (before 12pm)

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**Irish Dancing**

Echoes of Erin School of Irish Dance

Echoes of Erin School of Irish Dance celebrates the rich culture of the Emerald Isle with weekly classes for adults. If the decadent stage outfits have caught your attention, you will be pleased to learn that these students have danced their way around the world, donning show-stopping outfits. With a little practice, you could be next!

Echoes of Erin School of Irish Dance,
[www.echoesirishdance.com](http://www.echoesirishdance.com) (+852) 9408 9574

Around $2,000 per month

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**Bollywood**

Cosmic Dance

From Ireland to India, the Cosmic Dance Company is on a mission to popularise Indian dance in Hong Kong. Fusing traditional Bharatnatyam moves with popular music and styles, the cosmic team have succeeded in transforming this 5,000 year-old temple dance into a hip, current genre. The school offers energetic Indian Fusion dance classes combining classical, Bollywood, and Indian folk dance for all ages, providing the perfect way to blast that cardio workout while building up a sense of rhythm, directional awareness, strength, and grace.

Cosmic Dance Company,
[www.cosmic-dance.com](http://www.cosmic-dance.com)

Ricky Dancing Studio, 1/F, 33-39 Austin Road, Jordan, (+852) 9744 9595

$200 per class / packages from $650 - $1,400

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**Street Dance/Contemporary**

Billy Chan Dance Concepts

Established in 1999, Billy Chan Dance Concepts knows its stuff when it comes to dance. Level one will introduce new groovers to the basics of street dance, including body isolation and coordination. By level three, you will be learning lengthy, stylised routines which include advanced techniques and hit syncopated rhythms. With classes in Hip Hop, Wacking, Jazz Funk, and more, the passionate team of instructors will have you poppin’ and lockin’ in no time.


Room D, 5/F, On Fook Industrial Building, 41 Kwai Fung Road, Kwai Chung, (+852) 2398 2663

$145 per class / packages from $420 - $1,900

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**Neverland Dance**

Focusing on ‘pop dance’ and all the things that entails (think heavily choreographed stuff like k-pop, hip hop, urban, and house), Neverland Dance is great if you want to push yourself to the next level. Started by veteran dancer and choreographer Shing Mak, the company now operates across two locations—a huge, purpose-built space in Kwun Tong and a slightly ‘homier’ iteration in Sai Ying Pun. Both offering great packages and a jam-packed schedule.


G/F, 25 High Street, Sai Ying Pun, (+852) 2857 1884;

12/F, Yip Fat Factory Building Phase I, 77 Hoi Yuen Road, Kwun Tong, (+852) 3741 2740

From $85 per class / packages $400 - $1,950

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**Oasis Dance Centre**

This spacious, modern Wan Chai studio is the perfect place to tap into your inner Goddess, lose yourself in the music, and fall in love with this exotic dance style. One thing’s for sure, your hips won’t be lying after a few sessions with this talented team of Middle East Dance Specialists. Focused on fitness? Try out Belly Dancing, Hawaiian, and Flamenco for Fitness, and tone up your muscles to their world-dance tracks.

Oasis Dance Centre,
[www.oasis-dance-centre.com](http://www.oasis-dance-centre.com)

4/F Anton Building, 1 Anton Street, Wan Chai, (+852) 2522 6698

$250 per class / packages from $680 - $1,700

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Oasis Dance Centre,
[www.oasis-dance-centre.com](http://www.oasis-dance-centre.com)

4/F Anton Building, 1 Anton Street, Wan Chai, (+852) 2522 6698

$250 per class / packages from $680 - $1,700

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**Studiodanz**

There’s a good reason that this studio is heavily respected within the Hong Kong dance scene. Operating out of a large, professional
space on both the Island and Kowloon, Studiodanz covers a litany of contemporary dance disciplines such as hip hop, jazz, funk, urban, tap, and break dancing. What sets them apart are two things: they offer both group and private lessons; and an intensive, six-month 'Showbiz Project' programme for those who are deadly serious about having a go at a dance career and want to become a professional within six months.

Studiodanz, www.studiodanz.com
7/F, Wah Ha Factory Building, 8 Shipyard Lane, Quarry Bay, (+852) 2576 7622
5/F, Tontex Industrial Building, 2-4 Sheung Hei Street, San Po Kong, (+852) 2332 8006
$170 per class / packages from $780 - $1,520

Salsa
Dance With Style
Let the infectious salsa rhythms whisk you away to Latin America almost every night of the week with Dance With Style. Hosting a series of free salsa nights at funky, downtown bars, it’s no wonder this dance style is proving to be such a hit. Wave farewell to the Monday blues with the hugely popular After Work Salsa Party at Rúla Búla, or sashay down to Morrison Cafe & Bar later on in the week for two more installments of free salsa classes and freestyle dance time. No partner? No worries, their graceful rotation, embedded into the routines, ensures no one is left dancing alone.

Dance With Style, www.dancewithstylehk.com
(+852) 6389 6213

Dance Trinity
Salsa classes are held every night of the week at Dance Trinity, so even those with the most hectic of schedules have a chance to get their bodies moving. Classes cover both open dancing and partner work, and before long you will be mastering complex techniques including ribcage rolls and body ripples. With sprung wooden floors, and mirrors along the full length of the spacious studio, this is the perfect place to unleash your inner Latino.

Dance Trinity, www.dancetrinity.com
8/F, Fung Woo Centre, 279-281 Des Voeux Road, Central, (+852) 9634 9770
$180 per class / packages from $680 - $2,880

Swing
Hong Kong Swings
Is it a dance school? Is it somewhere to go drop your car keys into a bowl? We checked, it’s the former. Unlike the others on the list, this isn’t so much a company, more of a social group with professionals at the helm. As such, they don’t have a set studio or space where they conduct classes, and sessions change location weekly (always on Hong Kong Island), which can be a pain but hey, that’s the nature of the beast. Classes are held on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays with free classes sometimes held on Mondays and Wednesdays, as well as a litany of workshops and social events (that may or may not involve swinging).

Hong Kong Swings, www.hongkongswings.com
various locations on Hong Kong Island
$200 per class / $680 for full courses

Bit of Everything
Russ Dance Factory
If you fancy dipping your toes into the world of dancing and its myriad health and wellness benefits, but aren’t sure what discipline is for you, then Russ Dance Factory is a good way to go. Offering a variety of classes including funk, body groove, K-pop, hip hop, jazz, heels, and Latin dance, as well as other, non-dance workout options like bootcamps and yoga, there’s no shortage of choice. All this takes place in their 7,000 square-foot space in Causeway Bay that consists of three separate studios.

Russ Dance Factory, www.russdancefactory.com
7/F, Soundwill Plaza II - Midtown, 1 Tang Lung Street, Causeway Bay, (+852) 2976 0182
$350 for a trial class / packages from $720 - $2,200
Why Small Talk Makes You Happier and More Productive

Anyone who’s been caught at the office water cooler discussing the weather knows that making small talk isn’t as easy as it sounds. Chatting with strangers can be awkward, especially for the more introverted among us. But there is an art to it, and it can be mastered. Simon Gillow, media director of theDesk co-working space, tells us more.

“Don’t talk to strangers,” our parents told us. And many of us took their advice literally. We keep ourselves to ourselves on the MTR or bus. And we shy away from small talk when we share a desk at work. It seems we prefer splendid isolation rather than the risk of striking up a conversation with a stranger. But recent studies show that our awkwardness means we’re missing opportunities for both increased happiness and greater productivity. In fact, you’ll be surprised by how much small talk benefits you.

The Sound of Silence

Until recently most studies have focussed on what are called ‘strong ties’. These are the conversations we have with our close friends and family. No surprise to learn that these are sustaining and give us the sense of belonging and warmth we know and love. More recent research, however, has shifted towards interactions between ‘weak ties’. A barista is one example. Others include your taxi driver, the person next to you on the bus and, of course, co-workers sharing the same co-working space, like theDesk.

Big Small Talk

Small talk works like magic. Chats are often brief, for example, commenting on the weather when we’re at the coffee machine, or offering to get someone a coffee in the hot desk spaces. Sometimes conversations go on longer. I remember a taxi ride from the airport where the driver chatted with me in English the whole way to Shau Kei Wan, sharing tales about his life, his family, and how Hong Kong had changed. The trip went by in a flash. I even volunteered a tip. Rare, indeed. But many of us feel awkward about striking up a conversation with a stranger. Why do we feel this way? Is it that we prefer solitude to finding connection with the people around us?

Leave Me in Peace

One reason is a fear of rejection. We may harbour the feeling of having nothing in common with a stranger. We imagine the person won’t be interested in what we have to say. This belief is nonsense, the research suggests. It even has a name; ‘pluralistic ignorance’. We look around and see people not talking and we assume they don’t want to, but researchers found that everyone is more interested in talking than they believe. A recent study from the University of Chicago invited commuters on trains, public buses, and in taxis to strike up a conversation. And what did they find? Even though the conversation starters expected a negative experience, both parties reported a more positive journey than those who sat in silence. It appears that we seriously misunderstand the consequences of social connection. We allows ourselves to believe that isolation is more pleasant than chatting with a stranger.

Community Chit Chat

“For me, small talk is a fantastic way to understand a person, to look beyond the job roles and work identity,” says Polina Sarafanova, community manager at theDesk. “It makes interactions more human and reveals the multifaceted nature of each of us.” Polina’s role is far more than front desk, it’s about fostering interaction to help people establish the essential relationships that they need and expect in a co-working space. “I like to start a chat while people have a cup of coffee or during lunch. These are the times
when members what to take a break, relax and talk about things outside work."

For Polina, small talk offers the opportunity to build deeper bonds and connect people, part of theDesk’s inclusive community approach. "Members and neighbours are usually eager to share their experiences, whether it’s about the past weekend, travel, or everyday life. It’s how I learn about their interests, passions outside work, or current pain points. I’ve been astonished by the way our members combine full-time work with personal interests: writing a book, filming a short movie, managing an NGO, or even starting a craft beer project. This list is endless, it’s incredible," she says.

Social and Emotional Connection

Polina’s experience is backed up by the research. Regular small talk with the people around us leads to better social and emotional well-being. It fulfils our basic human need to belong. A conversation with a stranger means you’re seen and acknowledged. Feeling better is fantastic, but what the studies also show is that these brief interactions also boost our ability to focus, plan, prioritise, and organise. In short, small talk makes you better at work.

Four Steps to Better Small Talk

#1 Be Available

Sure, it’s great to listen to music when you work, but the result can be that you create a barrier. Many people use headphones to signal that they’re focused on work and not open to chatting. No problem. But surely not all the time? Let people in and the chance of connecting increases.

#2 Listen and Ask

It can be tough. What do you say? What if they don’t reply? If you’re feeling awkward, have some go-to questions you can pull out of the bag. They don’t need to be complicated. They’re only to get you started if your meeting new people. "How long have you been a member here?", "How do you know…?", and "I didn’t realise you were a graphic designer / lawyer / content writer", are all great conversation starters.

#3 Be Purposeful

You know what a self-fulfilling prophecy is, right? If you approach small talk thinking it’s dull and unimportant, it probably will be. Quash your negative thoughts of ‘I hate this,’ or ‘When can I leave?’ and keep in mind that small talk isn’t a waste of time. It helps you build the foundation for more meaningful conversations and richer relationships. Think of small talk as the sumptuous starter before a main meal.

#4 Be Interested

When you truly listen you discover that each of us has wonderful stories to share. Showing interest is the gift that keeps on giving when it comes to interaction. Listen with attention. Ask questions to find out more. Clearly, there’s a balance to this. No one wants an interrogation. But we all have the capacity to feel interest. When it comes to small talk, showing interest is the catalyst for people to open up and share.

Relax and Enjoy

We’re not all super extroverts. Some of us are quieter types. But research shows that small talk has a significant effect on our well being and can lead to better productivity. As Polina says, "Small talk doesn’t need a purpose. There’s no pressure to make an impression on another person. It is all about the process, and it brings warmth to our everyday connections."
Sozo Hair Design
With its trendy, modern decor and minimalist design, Sozo Hair Design oozes cutting-edge style without being pretentious or trying too hard. This boutique salon is owned by one of Hong Kong’s top Japanese stylists, Yoko Hisatomi Lane, who carefully selects her team of fashionable stylists, so you know you’re in for top-notch treatment. Located on the third floor of the Worldwide Commercial Building on Wyndham Street, the salon is easy to get to and boasts an impressive view of Central, making it a great spot for people-watching too.

The Japanese influence is evident in the black wooden flooring, large gold mirrors, chic swivel chairs, and white screen doors which create a clean, chic look. The studio is home to top stylists who are up-to-date on all the latest trends and offer specialised Japanese treatments as well as the usual cuts, colours, and highlights. Depending on the stylist, a woman’s cut ranges from $480 to $820, and a man’s ranges from $400 to $680. Definitely worth checking out if you’re after a super stylish new do.

O2 Hair Studio
O2 Hair Studio has been around for twenty years and there’s a good reason for this. Located on 38 Wyndham Street, the studio is home to some of the most skilled hair stylists we have ever come across in Hong Kong, who happen to be particularly savvy when it comes to creating blonde highlights and the balayage effect. The studio is deceptively large and has recently undergone a funky renovation, meaning you get to kick back among lush green pot plants, white brick walls, and the occasional Buddha head which creates a stylish and earthy vibe.

What really stands out here is how much the team care about their clients’ hair, as well

Sozo Hair Design, www.sozohairdesign.com
3/F Worldwide Commercial Building, 34 Wyndham Street, Central, (+852) 2353 5025

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Our 5 Favourite Hair Salons in Hong Kong
As we enter a new year, many of us search for ways to revamp our look and give ourselves a bit of a makeover, and what easier place to start than with our hair. Finding a great salon that won’t bodge up our locks, however, is not so easy. Luckily, we’ve done the groundwork for you to find the best tried-and-tested hair salons around Hong Kong that won’t burn a hole in your wallet.
as their passion for creating beautiful looks to suit your personality — even if that means recommending something different to what you originally had in mind.

Depending on the level of stylist, a woman’s hair cut costs from $600 to $1,080, while a gentleman’s ranges from $440 to $720, which is pretty reasonable given the quality of service and expertise of the team. So, if you’re looking for great service, a skilled hand, and a stylist who cares about your hair as much as you do, O2 is the place.

O2 Hair Studio, www.o2hairstudio.com
G/F, 38 Wyndham Street, Central, (+852) 2529 6289

Capelli Salon by Sense of Touch
www.capelli.com.hk
G211, 1/F, The Repulse Bay Arcade, 109 Repulse Bay Road, (+852) 2592 9559

Love Hair
Conveniently located on Wellington Street, Love Hair is a boutique salon that specialises in healthier, more natural products and practices. From using water-saving shower heads, which save up to 70 percent water, to 100 percent organic hair products, this lovable hub is so committed to adopting environmentally-friendly methods that even the toilet paper is eco-friendly.

This ethos transcends to every part of your salon experience, from the moment you step through the green, rustic doors to discover an idyllic sanctuary decked with creamy walls, reclaimed wooden shelving, and eco flooring, to when you take your first sip of fair trade herbal tea — or imported wine from sustainable farms if you fancy something stronger. Creating A-list looks for clients, while playing a part in protecting the planet, is the number one goal of the Love Hair team of international stylists, helmed by owner Toni Sutton Marcus. A cut and finish starts from $600, while a colour begins at $900, making this an affordable option for eco-conscious salon goers.

Love Hair, www.lovehairhk.com
1F, 99F Wellington Street, Central, (+852) 2458 0190

Tommy Hair Design
If you’re looking for a cut or colour without spending a fortune, then Tommy Hair Design is a winner. With no website or even Facebook page, this modestly-sized salon relies purely on word-of-mouth to secure its clientele, and although the staff have limited English, this spot is hugely popular among westerners due to the expertise of the stylists (in particular Edmond) who create gorgeous blonde highlights for an affordable $1,200. This is significantly cheaper than other salons on the island, making this a good option if you don’t mind scrimping on luxury (it isn’t the most glamorous of venues). A woman’s haircut and will set you back an affordable $280, while a men’s costs a piddly $200 — an unbeatable price for central Hong Kong.

Tommy Hair Design, M/F, Union Commercial Building, 12-16 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central, (+852) 9191 0682
Where to Buy
The Best Sevens Costumes

From streakers to streaky bacon, the mystical to the downright terrifying (we’re looking at you Trump clones), Hong Kong Sevens fans never fail to reach new heights of awesomeness in the costume department. To give you some inspiration for this year’s epic event, we suss out the best places to find the coolest, creepiest, and downright confusing get-ups to grace the South Stand this April 6 to 8.

Matteo Party
If you have cash to spend, then splurge on Matteo Party’s huge stock of 2,000 plus costumes, with sizes ranging from infant through to adult XL. Prices range from $100 to $1,000, and there are plenty of accessories to complete your Sevens look such as face paints, wigs, and funky hats. It’s definitely not the cheapest option, but as the largest party supplier in Asia, you can pretty much guarantee that you’ll sort all the materials you need to create an epic Sevens outfit.

Matteo Party, 20/F, Shun Hei Causeway Bay Tower, 492 Lockhart Road, Causeway Bay, (+852) 2342 8887, www.matteoparty.com

Pottinger Street in Central
If large crowds don’t freak you out (well, you are heading to the Sevens after all) then Pottinger Street is packed with stores selling all sorts of weird and wonderful costumes to hire and buy, along with more accessories that you can imagine. Here, revelers on the skint side can find wigs for around $70 to $150, feather boas for $15 to $20, and masks from as little as $12 up to $35. There is a huge range of plastic animal masks too for a bargain $50 – we just know those giant horse heads are going to make an appearance again this year! A great place to head if you left in until the last minute to too!

Markets
Head to pretty much any one of Hong Kong’s bustling markets and you’re most likely to stumble upon a few stalls selling colourful wigs, ridiculous accessories, and ready-to-buy costumes. Ladies’ Market and Temple Street Night Market are your best bet for finding fun costumes at bargain prices. Wonder Woman, Super Girl, and Batman can often be seen hanging from the stalls along these markets, and more experienced hagglers have been known to get as much as 50 percent off the original sale price, so it’s always worth a shot!

Ladies’ Market, Tung Choi Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon, (near Mong Kok MTR Station, Exit E2)
Temple Street Night Market, Kowloon, (Yau Ma Tei MTR Station, Exit C, or Jordan, Exit A)

Taobao.com
For an absolute steal of a price, hop online at Taobao.com and snap up an amazing and original costumes to dazzle the crowd. This Chinese eBay style website is jam-packed with weird and wacky get-ups at super cheap prices that can usually be delivered in a week or less. From pirates and fairies, to action heroes and cosplay – not to mention a hilarious Sumo Wrestler Suit – you really are spoilt for choice here and it’s amazing what you can pick up for under $100. There’s just one catch – it’s all in Chinese, so if you don’t speak the lingo, you might need to ask your local friends to help out! And they aren’t too generous on the sizing, so it’s probably better to order big.

www.taobao.com

Don’t forget to tag #localiiz at this year’s Sevens. You never know, you might be the star of our slideshow!
The Coolest Creative Classes for Kids in Hong Kong

With Hong Kong Arts Month taking over the city, now is the perfect time to let your little monkeys dip their toes in the world of creativity. From music and painting, to circus and performing arts, our dynamic city is blessed with brilliant classes to get their creative juices flowing.

Music Lessons
Christine Samson Music and Arts Studio
If your little one loves to belt out a tune wherever they go, then this is the place for them. With a long list of professional instructors and experienced performers, the team can help your children develop their singing vocals and build self confidence along the way. Apart from providing private singing lessons for kids aged eight and above, they also host group workshops and singing clubs, as well as guitar and ukulele lessons to teach them about music. Whether it’s a classic rock anthem or new Canto pop song, these experts know exactly how to nurture mini stars.

CSMA Studio, www.csmastudio.com
2B, Timmar Court, 10 - 12 Wing Hing Street,
North Point, (+852) 2762 0112 / 9229 9885
Contact the studio for details on prices

ONE Serviced Music Rooms
Let’s get musical! With a talented team of musical maestros, including multiple team members of the Philharmonic Orchestra, ONE Serviced Music Rooms is the perfect learning environment for your little musician in the making to nurture their hidden talents. Whether they enjoy rocking out on the electric guitar, or going up and down the scales on a piano, these folks will help them master whatever instrument takes their fancy.

ONE Serviced Music Rooms,
www.onerooms.com.hk
5/F, Mirage Tower, 15 Thomson Road, Wan Chai,
(+852) 2528 6800
$400-$700 per class / rooms from $80 per hour

Best Music Academy
Owning a reputation for being one of the best music schools around, Best Music Academy takes musical education very seriously. Offering a huge range of classes such as violin and viola instruction, piano lessons, guitar tutoring, music therapy, and musical theory, all lessons can be booked individually, in blocks, or even as a specially curated course. And with a name like that, you know you can’t go wrong.

Best Music Academy,
www.bestmusicacademy.com
18/D, Hennessy Apartment Building, 48 Percival Street, Causeway Bay, (+852) 3644 5045
Contact the academy for details on prices
Sol Passion Music
If traditional instruments aren’t enough to grab your kid’s interest, then perhaps Sol Passion Music is the answer. With a series of DJ courses and music-making classes available throughout the year, these passionate folks enable young students to learn all about modern music theories, key techniques, and how to make their own original music and see their creative minds come to life. Fun, pressure-free, and with all the creative freedom they need, Sol Passion Music is definitely one for hip youngsters.

11/F, EIB Tower, 4 – 6 Morrison Hill Road, Wan Chai, (+852) 9422 0367
$4,500 - $8,100 per course package

Art Classes
Messy Jam
We know the idea of giving paint to your little ones may terrify you — after all, we’ve all seen those viral videos of how it can go horribly wrong — but at Messy Jam you don’t have to worry about a thing. They offer private workshop sessions for four to eight kids, where canvases, acrylics, paints, and other equipment is provided. With no specific learning curriculum, Messy Jam is all about letting your little monkeys be creative, have fun, and just get damn right messy!

Messy Jam, www.messy-jam.com
Flat D, 2/F Tai Fat Building, 37 Ko Shing Street, Sheung Wan, (+852) 9366 9836
$300 – $600 per head

Hong Kong Art Tutoring
If your kids are doodle-loopy, then art classes are surely their idea of heaven. From painting on an easel, to experimenting with multi-media, there’s no end to the creative fun at Hong Kong Art Tutoring. Talented artist and passionate teacher Gail Deayton is on hand to nurture your little one’s imagination by taking them on a journey to become a young artist. Welcoming students aged ten to eighteen through her doors, Gail encourages pupils to experiment with new techniques and alternative medias. Perhaps your younger fancies trying their hand at sculpting? Whatever avenue they choose, this North Point based studio is the perfect venue for budding Picassos to let loose and create.

Hong Kong Art Tutoring, www.hkarttutoring.com
21/F, 435 King Road, North Point, (+852) 9722 8353
Contact the studio for details on prices

KA Atelier
Fancy something a little more cosy with a human touch? KA Atelier is a private painting studio with a small creative space, hidden in the heart of the city on Star Street. Your budding artist can get their creative buzz on by signing up for workshops such Chinese Ink Painting, Teapot Painting Workshop, Mini Jars Painting, Acrylic and Watercolour Painting, and a Mini Scrapbook Workshop. If you wish to see your child in action, or even get involved yourself, then you can give their Paint Your Own Canvas Workshop a go!

KA Atelier, www.ko-atelier.com
2D Moonstar Court, 2A-2G Star Street, Wan Chai, (+852) 3484 2919
Contact the studio for details on prices

Kid’s Gallery
Originally set up as a small art studio for kids to explore their artistic talents, Kid’s Gallery now operates not just in Hong Kong, but also China, with a huge selection of creative classes and workshops for toddlers to young teens. As well as encouraging children to express their creativity through visual arts, the gallery also work with well-respected art authorities around the globe to offer exam courses for little artists with big goals.

Kid’s Gallery, www.kidsgallery.com
21/F, Coda Plaza, 51 Garden Road, Central, (+852) 2501 4842
$2,680 - $2,980 per term (8 classes)

Performing Arts
Rumple and Friends
Rumple the Clown and his pals want to play. With drama, arts and crafts, musical theatre, and even magic lessons, the fun crew provide the perfect gateway to introducing performing arts to your little ones in a unique way. There are regular holiday camps available as well as group classes on offer where kids get to learn, perform, and have a ton of fun with professional performers like Melody the Mermaid, Pirate Pete, and Rumple himself!

Rumple and Friends, www.rumpleandfriends.com
5B, 5/F Kin On Commercial Building, 49-51 Jervois street, Sheung Wan, (+852) 9830 8287
Workshops start at $2,500

Faust International Youth Theatre
Do you have a little star on your hands? If your kid loves nothing more than stepping into the spotlight, then Faust could be their perfect match. With annual performances and festivals, drama workshops, and holiday theatre programmes, the Faust team are experts when it comes to helping youngsters develop self confidence, refine their drama skills, and begin their exciting journey into the adventurous world of theatre.

Faust International Ltd, www.faustworld.com
5/F, Nan Dao Commercial Building, 359 & 361 Queen’s Road Central, Sheung Wan
$3,180 - $4,480 per term
Colour My World

Whether they love painting, photography, video-making, sculpting, acting, singing, or even playwriting, there’s plenty to keep kids entertained and inspired at Colour My World. With classes covering visual and performing arts, as well as holiday workshops during Easter and summer, there’s no shortage of fun for kids to get involved in. The only difficulty might be deciding which class to pick!

Room 108, Aberdeen Marina Tower, 8 Shum Wan Road, Wong Chuk Hang, (+852) 2580 5028
Contact the studio for details on prices

Baking Sessions
Complete Deelite

Is your little one a cake or a cookie monster? Let them find out at one of Complete Deelite’s Friday afternoon Creative Cake and Jumbo Cookie Jam workshops. The sweet treat maestros invite kids to get creative with sprinkles, buttercream, and fondant colours as they decorate their sugary delights to their hearts’ content. All decorating tools, embellishments, and expert guidance is provided, and group bookings are welcomed too.

Complete Deelite, www.completedeelite.com
2/F, On Lan Centre, 11 - 15 On Lan Street, Central, (+852) 3167 7022
$320 per child (age seven and up) or $280 per child (group of four or more)

Whisked

Catering for Baby Whisks (age three to four), Little Whisks (age five to seven), and Junior Whisks (age seven to ten), this quaint little baking studio has got your mini chefs covered. Classes are taught weekly in either Putonghua or English, and introduce children to various baking tools and techniques as they create both sweet and savoury recipes. As well as promoting healthy eating habits, classes also help encourage kids with their reading, mathematics, and communication skills — not to mention their cleaning up skills!

Whisked, www.whiskedbaking.com
21st Floor, Xiu Ping Commercial Building, 104 Jervois Street, Sheung Wan, (+852) 3460 3130
Baby and Little Whisks: $380 per class / $350 for six classes; Junior Whisks: $420 per class / $400 for six classes

Just for Fun
Elephant Community Press

Offering a wide range of creative writing workshops for budding authors in Hong Kong, Elephant Community Press provides a unique opportunity for young voices to be heard. From generating original ideas and drafting stories, to publishing their very own book to hold, the professional teachers here are on hand to guide them through every step of the writing and publication process.

Elephant Community Press, www.elephantcommunitypress.com
Unit 704, Lap Fai Building, 6 - 8 Pottinger Street, Central, (+852) 3487 3153
Contact the team for details on prices

Junior Snappers

Does your youngster love making home movies? Then let them get behind the camera and create their own masterpiece at Junior Snappers. Under the guidance of a talented trio of professional film-makers, your budding movie expert will learn how to write, direct, and film a piece of their own — with all the best costumes of course. From Greek mythology to Science Fiction, each workshop is themed to ensure they are fully engaged. Student by day, movie director by night, we think this might be the coolest hobby ever!

Junior Snappers, www.juniorsnappers.com
French International School, 34 Price Road, Jardines Lookout, (+852) 9849 0050
$1,000 - $2,000 per workshop

Read more!
Explore our Family & Home section on localiz.com
With art shows popping up all over the city this March, many of us might find ourselves drooling over expensive pieces that go way beyond our budget. Lucky then that we’ve sussed out some great shops and galleries which sell affordable gems that won’t make us bankrupt.

**YellowKorner**

If you find oil paintings and art sculptures too intimidating as a first-time buyer, then YellowKorner is the way to go. Not only do they offer a wide range of art photography with great prices to suit every budget, but each photo is also guaranteed to be of the highest quality using a non-digital printing technique on traditional paper. Make sure to hit up their website where you can find photographs available in all formats and finishes, as well as exclusive content such as photographers’ biographies, stories behind their artwork, and all the latest news on new additions to the YellowKorner family. Whether you’re looking for an animal captured in the wild, or a grand view of the Manhattan skyline, YellowKorner has it all.

YellowKorner, www.yellowkorner.com
58 Hollywood Road, Central, (+852) 2578 5888
1/F, PMQ, 35 Aberdeen Street, (+852) 2803 0188
Photographs range from $390 - $1,130

**EMOH**

With a strong focus on furniture designs, EMOH also offers a small collection of adorable artwork available in mini to large sizes, so customers can find something to grace their home, however big or small that may be. Featuring a selection of fun artwork by different artists from all over the world, every purchase also puts money straight back into the artist’s pocket. Whether you want to fill that empty space with on the wall in your living room, bedroom, or even bathroom, EMOH promises to bring you high quality products, with shockingly low prices.

EMOH, www.emohdesign.com
11/F, 134 Wai Yip Street, Ngau Tau Kok, (+852) 3621 0751
G/F, 42 Aberdeen, Central (Opposite to PMQ)
Wall art ranges from $499 - $3,380

**Art Being**

With the majority of their artwork ranging somewhere between $5,000 and $50,000, Art Being may fall within the higher end of your budget — but don’t look away just yet. What makes this place different from other high-end galleries is its soul belief in providing an open
door for all artists who may be struggling for recognition of their talents. Art Being also understands the importance of knowing the story behind each piece of art, which is why every buyer has the opportunity to meet the artist and find out what it is that makes their work unique, inspiring, and all the more meaningful.

Art Being, www.artbeing.co
4/F, 15 Queen Victoria Street, Central, (+852) 3703 3534
Paintings range from $5,000 - $50,000

Hong Kong Online Plaza
If you didn't know already, Hong Kong Online Plaza is one of Hong Kong's largest online platform that offers everything from a patio set to office furniture — and of course, art. With a huge range of paintings that can be displayed anywhere from the office to your home, this treasure chest is bound to have something to suit every taste and style. Whether you want something minimalist that’s oozing with all the right aesthetics, or looking for a bright, quirky piece of abstract art to go in your living room, you’ll find it here.

Hong Kong Online Plaza, www.onlineplaza.com.hk/paintings, (+852) 2509 3988
Paintings range from $510 - $5,400

The Art House Asia
The Art House Asia is a unique in-home show gallery that allows art buyers to gain a real perspective of what each piece of artwork would look like in a real home. Here you can view everything from oil paintings to decorative sculptures, and even arrange a group viewing with friends so you can relax and observe at your own pace — not without a glass of Prosecco in hand of course! With personally selected art coming from all over the globe and straight to your door, the only thing you have to worry about here is how to stop yourself from buying it all after a few glasses of bubbly!

The Art House Asia, www.thearthouseasia.com
Siu Hong Hau Road, Clear Water Bay, Sai Kung, (+852) 5648 7474
Artwork range from $700 - $30,000

ODD ONE OUT
For those looking for something a little extra, ODD ONE OUT is the perfect destination to make your shopping spree a full-on art experience. More than just an art shop, this is a Hong Kong based agency that offers a whole range of affordable artwork by a mixed pool of international and local artists, you will also be able to find other artsy delights such as greeting cards, stationary, books, and homeware that will make a great addition to your apartment.

ODD ONE OUT, www.oddoneout.hk
G/F, 14 St. Francis Street, Wan Chai
(+852) 2529 3955
Paintings range from $350 - $31,800

Sooq Central
Modern, unique, and authentic — those are just a few of the words to describe the beautiful range of art and prints available to buy at Sooq Central. Specialising in prints that feature the unique characteristics of our beautiful city of Hong Kong, you will find everything from a cool black and white shot of a dark alleyway, to a colourful capture of old buildings and street signs. Apart from selling amazing prints to go on your bedroom wall, Sooq Central also offers a whole range of accessories and homeware available that would make the perfect gift for a loved one. (or even yourself!)

Sooq Central, www.sooqcentral.com,
(+852) 9260 7163
Paintings range from $380 - $2,700
LOCALIIZ PROPERTY PICKS:

Stylish Pads for Art Lovers

We’re feeling rather inspired by Arts Month here at Localiiz, so much so that this month’s property picks are all geared towards those with an appreciation for art and style. Prepare to be inspired as these beautifully themed homes bring out the inner artist within.

Greenville, Soho
$54,000 per month
953 sq.ft

Two bedrooms, fully equipped kitchen, one unit per floor, and city view over Central

With vintage wooden furniture everywhere, beautiful Asian style lamp shades, and decor that will make you feel like you’ve just stepped inside a Chinese palace, this practical two-bedroom Soho apartment is definitely one for those who appreciate traditions. Not only is the apartment stylishly decked out in Asian themed furniture and decor, the building also holds a single unit per floor, which means you can always enjoy some peace and quiet whenever you’re in need of some artistic inspiration.

Contact: Habitat Property, www.habitat-property.com

Lung Fung Court, Sai Ying Pun
$59,500 per month
1,296 sq.ft

Two ensuite bedrooms, open kitchen, laundrette, semi-furnished, and city view

Oozing with aesthetics everywhere you look, this modern apartment is perfect for those with a fresh young take on art. With a creamy white living and dining area contrasting with a dark subtle open-kitchen and marble staircase, every piece of artwork on display is sure to steal the spotlight.

Contact: Habitat Property, www.habitat-property.com

Siu Hang Hau, Clearwater Bay
$55,000 per month
2,100 sq.ft

Three en-suite bedrooms, open kitchen, balcony, full greenery and sea view, garden, car park, and open terrace

Tucked away on the quiet hillside of Clear Water Bay, this brightly coloured blue and yellow house is just begging to be filled with art. Not only is the house newly refurbished with a black and white theme interior, there is also a 800 square-foot garden too so you and the whole family can throw a few outdoor soirees or have yourself an art jam session surrounded by nature.

Contact: Sunshine Property, www.sunshineproperty.hk

The Arch, Tsim Sha Tsui
$30,000 per month
556 sq.ft

Combined living and dining room, utility room, garden view, and fully-equipped kitchen

With an 80s-style interior, decorated with a funky velvet sofa and bright retro colours everywhere the eye can see, this groovy apartment is sure to bring out your artistic flare. The fully furnished modern kitchen also creates a great spot for entertaining your arty friends.

Contact: Spacious, www.spacious.hk

Read more!
Check out the rest of our property picks on localiiz.com
KELY Support Group

Empowering young people to reach their full potential

KELY Support Group (KELY) is a non-government funded bilingual organisation which provides support to youth between the ages of 14 and 24 in Hong Kong from Chinese-speaking, Ethnic Minority and English-speaking backgrounds. Our programmes and services focus on knowledge, resistance and harm reduction around drug and alcohol misuse. Using a positive youth development approach, with a priority to understand young people's perspective, we equip them with key life skills and resilience as they face various challenges growing up in Hong Kong.

kely.org
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20/F, Leighton Centre
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