

TOWN & COUNTRY

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EDENS OF THE EAST

Indian bread paved with pâté de foie gras. Hong Kong has myriad fine dining spots elsewhere, too. The intrepid journey to Lung Wah in the suburb called Sha Tin, in the New Territories, to nibble on pigeon gizzard, one of twenty pigeon dishes offered here. Toh Lee, in the new Hotel Nikko in Kowloon, gets high marks for its dim sum. A touristy excursion, but a joy all the same, is to take the small skiff out to the Jumbo, the giant floating restaurant in the harbor at Aberdeen. Braised fish maws with goose web may not tempt everyone, but less daunting dishes are on the menu as well. And if you want a souvenir, they'll dress you in ancient costumes and photograph you, posed like a king or queen on a throne entwined with gilded dragons.

Hong Kong is still a shopper's mecca. Stella Martin, owner of Temptations Asia Ltd., a shopping consultant company, says that bargains do not abound any more, but can still be found. Knowing where to look is the long suit at Temptations: Martin's specialists will provide a chauffeur-driven limousine and American guide for shopping expeditions, or will do the shopping and deliver the goods to your hotel. (1231 Jefferson Terrace, Macon, GA 31201; 912-742-2435). The best buys in town are jewelry, porcelain, linens, leather goods, furs, clothing (both custom- and tailor-made), furniture, antiques and even eyeglasses—which takes in just about everything but false teeth. **Pearls are a**

who awarded the view to guests in the tierced duplex suites and lanai rooms. Burns also set the style for the city's hotel swimming pools and put in a health center where guests can summon a rain shower, sunlight.



Gone, alas, are the days of yore when Hong Kong tailors stitched up suits according to one's preference for \$50. Today one pays about \$250 for a hand-tailored worsted suit; but it can still be



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and feel of a Mediterranean port with its cafés and shops and its flotilla of junks in the harbor. Artists and writers favor this island, and so, apparently, did pirates, whose caves invite inspection. In April or early May the island celebrates the Bun Festival to please Pak Tai, the god of the sea. It's a seven-day fiesta that brings lion dances, costumed stilt walkers and a parade of island children.

prime purchase, especially at K.S. Sze and Sons in the Mandarin Shopping Arcade. If you don't find it there, try Oriental Arts and Jewelry, a little shop on Hankow Road where the pearl *meister* is Henry Wan. The town is dotted with Diane Freis boutiques, which stock her Hong Kong-made designs at half the U.S. prices. And the renowned native jewelry designer Kai-Yin Lo has shops at the Peninsula, the Mandarin Oriental and at Pacific Place.

Keep in mind, too, that this is the Year of the Horse: what better time to try your luck at Happy Valley race track (one of two Hong Kong courses operated by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club), where the one-day betting record is U.S. \$74 million. The racing season runs from September through May. Ocean Park, Asia's biggest marine playground, just off of Aberdeen, is unveiling Middle Kingdom, a walk through a series of replicas of temples, pagodas, palaces and streets that tell the story of thirteen centuries of life in ancient China. Watch folk dancers, acrobats or Chinese opera in the amphitheater. Further on is Deep Water Bay, one of Hong Kong's prettiest small beach spots, with charming seafood restaurants, water-skiing and weekend golf at the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club.

With the help of your concierge, you can arrange a short boat ride to Lantau, the largest of Hong Kong's islands. It's great for hiking, biking, exploring or a day of visiting the Buddhist and Trappist monasteries. Abuilding here is the largest Buddha statue in all Asia. Or you can make for Cheung Chau Island, which has the look

HONG KONG TRAVEL FACTS:

Getting There:

CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS
From Los Angeles (starting July); (800) 233-2742
SINGAPORE AIRLINES
From San Francisco; (800) 742-3333
UNITED AIRLINES
From San Francisco, Chicago and New York; (800) 241-6522
NORTHWEST AIRLINES
From New York; (800) 225-2525
ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS
From Washington, connecting in Tokyo with Cathay Pacific; (800) 235-9262

Staying There:

THE REGENT HONG KONG
Salisbury Road, Kowloon; (800) 545-4000
SHANGRI-LA
64 Mody Road, Kowloon; (800) 359-5050
MANDARIN ORIENTAL
5 Connaught Road, Hong Kong; (800) 526-6666
THE PENINSULA
Salisbury Road, Kowloon; SRS Reservation Service; (800) 777-5848
GRAND HYATT HONG KONG
1 Harbour Road, Hong Kong; (800) 233-1234

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