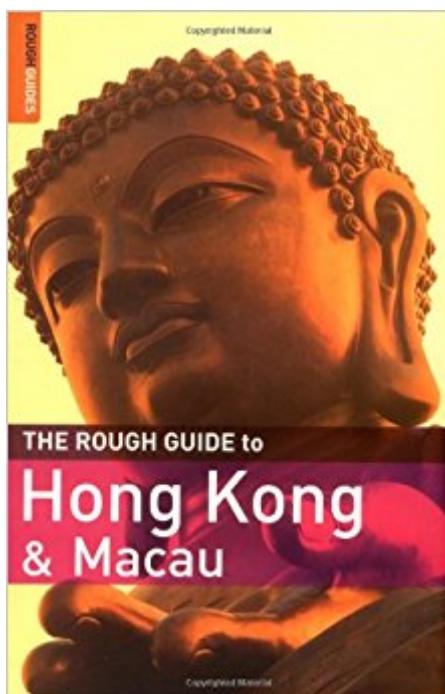


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The Rough Guide To Hong Kong & Macau - Edition 6 (Rough Guide Travel Guides)



Synopsis

Explore every corner of two of Asia's most exciting destinations with the fully-revised sixth edition of the Rough Guide to Hong Kong and Macau. From shopping on 'The Golden Mile' to the Ten Thousand Buddha's Monastery - inspired by dozens of photos - the 20-page, full colour introduction highlights all the 'things-not-to-miss'. In addition, there are two brand-new, 4-page, full-colour inserts: 'Cantonese Cuisine' and 'Architecture'. The guide includes a new 'author's pick' section of the very best hotels and restaurants, plus up-to-date listings of all the top bars, clubs and shops, to suit all budgets. The section on Macau has been completely revised and extended and there are detailed chapters on Hong Kong's background from post-handover politics to feng shui and Chinese Astrology. The guide comes complete with maps and plans for both regions.

Book Information

Series: Rough Guide Travel Guides

Paperback: 416 pages

Publisher: Rough Guides; 6th edition (May 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1843535343

ISBN-13: 978-1843535348

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,017,905 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in Books > Travel > Asia > Macau #265 in Books > Travel > Asia > Hong Kong #2329 in Books > Travel > Asia > China > General

Customer Reviews

Jules Brown first visited Hong Kong in 1989. He has also written and researched Rough Guides to Scandinavia, Barcelona, Washington DC and England.

The authors and the editor probably do not know much about written Chinese. I have not tested this extensively, but the Chinese translations that you are supposed to show to anyone who doesn't speak English for directions only seem to make matters worse. For instance, Luen Wo market is translated on page 154 as the name of a walled village which is in a completely different part of

town. Just imagine the frustration. Or, try and order a turnip cake at a dim-sum restaurant using the table at page 204 and you'll get chicken feet. If you want to order chicken feet of course you end up with stuffed beancurd, but the good news is that if you order stuffed beancurd you reverse the spell and get your chicken feet back. I have another minor gripe about the unjustifiable scarcity and lack of details of maps in this kind of guides, which makes this particular book not a very useful one for hiking (an activity that you are likely to engage in if you are staying more than 2 days in Hong Kong and like me you hate shopping) or even for walking around the city for that matter, for instance the pretty spectacular Bowen Road walk, or the even more obvious Victoria Peak walks. Unless of course you integrate with better maps, that are *freely available* on the Internet. I think it's high time that Rough Guide and its main competitor Lonely Planet start publishing some decent maps with their guide books, instead of wasting countless paragraphs trying to explain what can be visually obvious in an accurate map. Other than that, the book mainly delivered and it was a pleasant enough read, so 3 stars seem appropriate.

I recommend this guide, it was quite useful. The descriptions of various areas were quite accurate, and the maps were mostly very good. The one of Macau seemed to have some minor errors, but that place is very confusing to walk around, so it could have been me. Anyway, you want the maps in this book or something pretty good, because the free tourist map is basically worthless. I really like Rough Guides, because their reviews are very honest and balanced, and they are excellent about cross-referencing recommended locations, restaurants, hotels, etc and maps in each book. This guide is up to the same high standards, so it was very easy to use. I would recommend that the walking tours guide (available for free at the airport, etc) is a good supplement to this guide. I used it extensively.

I didn't use a guide much while I was there but when I did, I found my Frommer's guide to be much more interesting, attractive and well structured. I never use a guide to find restaurants, hotels or any of the major tourist attractions, as I can do all of that on my own. But I count on my guides to lead me to interesting things that I would never see if I didn't have one - the out of the way spots. This book definitely didn't help me with that and most of the things that it includes I could have figured out for myself in about the first 20 minutes of arriving in my hotel. The Frommer's guide on the other hand inspired me to venture into the unknown and see some really wonderful things that I wouldn't have otherwise. But that's just me and other people obviously like this book, so it probably just boils down to personal preference, just like most things!

Have visited Hong Kong 4 times in late 60s and early 70s. Just wanted to see what it is like now. Well written book that gives me a review of how much it has changed.

For first timer to HK or even second, etc... if you haven't been back for a while, you will need this.

I used the sixth (2006) edition of the ROUGH GUIDE TO HONG KONG & MACAU during a recent two-week stay in Hong Kong. Reading it before my trip, I found it to portray Hong Kong as a fascinating and immense place to visit, where one can spend weeks covering all manner of out of the way places. This was a great contrast to the Berlitz guide to Hong Kong I also took along, which make the region seem like a two-day stop where the only interesting thing is shopping. There's a chapter each on Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, the New Territories, and the outlying islands. The description of each town or wilderness inside these divisions takes the form of a walking tour. The authors guide the reader through the streets well, and like all Rough Guides the maps here are clear and accurate. I unfortunately didn't visit Macau, so I cannot comment on that portion of the guide. I didn't use the accommodation listings, as like many travelers I prefer to stay with local from hospitality associations for closer contact with the local culture. As the Rough Guide does not cover this option, I have removed one star from my rating. However, there does indeed seem to be an adequate amount of both budget and luxury accommodation, with the stops in between of course. The needs of shoestring travelers are not given short shrift here, as in the offerings of all too many guidebook publishers. I did use the recommendations for restaurants, which do a great job of steering travelers to hole-in-the-wall eateries with little English signage which might not look fancy, but which show you the real Hong Kong in a way flashier places don't. At the end of the book one finds a history of the region, as well as some general information on Hong Kong culture. The history soberly discusses the uncertainty of Hong Kong's true autonomy after the handover, while other guidebooks I read gave only a rosy view. In these appendices there's also a list of films and books, fiction and non-fiction, about Hong Kong, letting the reader learn more about the place before he visits. If you're an independent traveler going to Hong Kong, I'd certainly recommend ROUGH GUIDE TO HONG KONG & MACAU. I find it better than the Lonely Planet guide due to the range of its listings and the quality of its maps, and light years ahead of the paltry listings and assumption that the reader is a millionaire which one finds in many other guidebook lines.

Great walking tours are included in this Rough Guide to Hong Kong and Macau-the directions are

explicit and easy to follow and the places to which we ventured exceeded expectations. There were GREAT shopping tips for a shopping mecca and we scored on several fronts! This is a great way to introduce yourself to Hong Kong and Macau before you get there and a great way to bring what you read into reality. A must-buy for travel to Asia.

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