



## Transport

Every day, about 11 million passenger journeys, are made on a public transport system which includes railways, trams, buses, minibuses, taxis and ferries.

There are about 283 licensed vehicles for every kilometre of road, and the topography makes it increasingly difficult to provide additional road capacity in the heavily built-up areas.

**Buses and Minibuses:** The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited (KMB) operates 320 bus routes in Kowloon and the New Territories and 60 cross-harbour routes. Fares range from \$2.5 to \$11.8 for urban routes, from \$1.7 to \$40 for the New Territories routes and from \$8.4 to \$35.6 for the cross-harbour routes.

With a fleet of 3 925 buses, mostly double-deckers, KMB is one of the largest road passenger transport operators in the southeast Asia. The total licensed fleet carries about 2.7 million passengers a day.

The New World First Bus Services Limited operates 50 Hong Kong Island routes, 33 cross-harbour routes and 8 routes serving Kowloon and Tseung Kwan O, and carries 479 000 passengers daily by a fleet of 692 buses. Fares range from \$3.2 to \$9.8 for Hong Kong Island routes, \$3.4 to \$7.9 for Kowloon and Tseung Kwan O routes and from \$8.4 to \$35.6 for the cross-harbour routes.

Citybus Limited operates two bus networks under two franchises. One of the networks comprises 63 Hong Kong Island routes and 29 cross-harbour routes. With a fleet of 748 air-conditioned buses, this network carries about 511 000 passengers a day. Fares range from \$2.5 to \$10.6 for Hong Kong Island routes, and from \$9.3 to \$32.2 for the cross-harbour routes.

Citybus Limited has another bus network providing services between urban areas and Airport/North Lantau. This network comprises 18 routes and 172 air-conditioned buses. Daily patronage is about 60 300 passengers and fares range from \$3.5 to \$48.

Long Win Bus Company Limited provides bus services between New Territories and Airport/North Lantau. It operates 18 routes with a fleet of 157 air-conditioned buses. Daily patronage is about 79 000 passengers and fares range from \$3.5 to \$29.2.

The New Lantau Bus Company (1973) Limited operates 22 Lantau routes and one New Territories route and carries an average of 47 000 passengers daily. Fares range from \$3.1 to \$43. The fleet comprises of 102 single-deckers.

These bus companies are continuously encouraged to fit their fleet with environmental-friendly engines.

Public Light Buses (PLBs) are minibuses with not more than 16 seats. Their number is fixed at a maximum of 4 350 vehicles. Some PLBs are used for scheduled services (green minibuses) and others for non-scheduled services (red minibuses).

Red minibuses are free to operate anywhere, except where special prohibitions apply, without fixed routes or fares. There are 1 414 red minibuses.

Green minibuses operate on fixed routes and frequency at fixed fares. By the end of June 2009, there were 71 green minibus routes on Hong Kong Island, 81 in Kowloon and 201 in the New Territories, employing a total of 2 936 vehicles. Red minibuses carry about 382 100 passengers a day, while green minibuses carry about 1 435 800 passengers daily.

Augmenting franchised buses and PLBs, there are about 7 071 non-franchised buses registered at the end of 2008 to provide services mainly for tourists, students, employees and residents.

**Taxis:** The 15 250 urban taxis (red), 2 838 New Territories taxis (green) and 50 Lantau taxis (blue) carry about one million passengers daily. Urban taxis operate throughout Hong Kong except Tung Chung Road and roads in south Lantau. New Territories taxis mainly provide service in northwestern part of the New Territories. Lantau taxis operate only on Lantau Island (excluding Discovery Bay) and Chek Lap Kok.

Fares are charged according to the approved fare scales. Urban taxis cost \$18 for the first two kilometres. The incremental charge is \$1.5 for every 0.2 kilometres until the amount reaches \$70.5, and \$1 for every 0.2 kilometres thereafter. New Territories taxis cost \$14.5 for the first two kilometres. The incremental charge is \$1.3 for every 0.2 kilometres until the amount reaches \$53.5, and \$1 for every 0.2 kilometres thereafter. Lantau taxis cost \$13 for the first two kilometres. The incremental charge is \$1.3 for every 0.2 kilometres until the amount reaches \$130, and \$1.2 for every 0.2 kilometres thereafter.

**Rail Systems:** MTR is a heavily patronised railway network. It has further expanded upon opening of LOHAS Park Station and Austin Station in mid-2009. At present, the MTR system consists of Kwun Tong Line (Tiu Keng Leng – Yau Ma Tei), Tsuen Wan Line (Tsuen Wan – Central), Island Line (Chai Wan – Sheung Wan), Tung Chung Line (Hong Kong – Tung Chung), Tseung Kwan O Line (Po Lam/ LOHAS Park – North Point), East Rail Line (Hung Hom – Lo Wu/ Lok Ma Chau), West Rail Line (Tuen Mun – Hung Hom), Ma On Shan Line (Wu Kai Sha – Tai Wai) and Disneyland Resort Line (Sunny Bay - Disneyland Resort). There are 84 stations along over 170 kilometre route. Standard class adult single journey fare ranges from \$3.5 to \$51. The MTR also operates a 35.2 km Airport Express with adult single journey fares ranging from \$60 to \$100. The above lines carry an average of about 3.7 million passengers per weekday.

The MTR System also covers a Light Rail network in north-west New Territories. In September 1988, phase one of the system came into operation to serve Tuen Mun and

Yuen Long new towns. Two Tuen Mun Extensions began operation in 1991 and 1992 respectively. In 1995, the network was further extended to Tin Shui Wai. The system comprises 36.2 kilometres of double track with 68 stops and 119 single-deck light rail vehicles. It is supported by feeder bus services. Adult single journey ticket fares range from \$4 to \$5.8. About 376 000 passengers travel daily on the system.

Besides, the MTR operates intercity through train services from Hung Hom to Guangzhou, Zhaoqing, Shanghai and Beijing. Twelve pairs of through trains are available daily between Hung Hom and Guangzhou for which ten northbound trains and ten southbound trains call at Dongguan. One train is available daily from Zhaoqing via Foshan. Trains to Shanghai and Beijing operate on alternate days. Apart from passenger services, the MTR also operates freight service to the Mainland.

Electric trams have been running in Hong Kong since 1904. Hongkong Tramways Limited operates six routes along the north shore of Hong Kong Island on a 16-kilometre track. A total of 163 double-deck trams are used for the services between Shau Kei Wan and Kennedy Town and around Happy Valley. The adult fare is \$2 and some 225 000 passengers are carried daily. The company also has two open-balcony trams for tourists and private hire.

Another Hong Kong's tramway is a cable-hauled funicular railway, operated by Peak Tramways Company Limited since 1888. The 1.4-kilometre line runs between Central and the Peak, with four stops en route, climbing 373 metres on gradient as steep as one-in-two. The line carries about 13 500 passengers a day, mainly tourists and local sightseers. A single trip for adults costs \$22.

**Ferries:** The "Star" Ferry Company Limited, established in 1898, operates four cross-harbour services and one harbour tour service with 12 vessels. Fares range from \$1.8 to \$6 and from \$45 to \$170 respectively.

New World First Ferry Services Limited took over the operation of the passenger ferry services previously operated by Hong Kong and Yaumati Ferry Company Limited as licensed ferry services on January 15, 2000. Currently, it is operating six inner harbour and outlying island ferry services with fares ranging from \$4.5 to \$36.7.

The Hong Kong and Kowloon Ferry Limited, Discovery Bay Transportation Services Limited, Park Island Transport Company Limited and some other operators operate other cross-harbour and outlying island passenger ferry services. In 2008, about 147 000 passengers took local ferry services daily.

In addition to passenger ferry services, there are two vehicular ferry routes used by dangerous goods vehicles.

**Private Transport:** There are 385 675 licensed private cars, accounting for 67 per cent of all vehicles as at end June 2009.

**Parking:** There are about 7 900 parking spaces in 14 government multi-storey car parks and two open-air car parks. These car parks are managed by two private operators. There are an estimated 670 000 additional spaces, of which 211 000 are for public use and 459 000 are designated for private use in commercial, residential and industrial premises.

About 17 900 on-street metered parking spaces are provided where they do not obstruct traffic. Where there are limited spaces and a high demand, the on-street parking spaces are metered to deter prolonged parking. Most metered parking spaces operate from 8 am to 12 midnight on weekdays and from 10 am to 10 pm on Sundays and public holidays.

**Road Tunnels:** There are 15 road tunnels, including three immersed-tube cross-harbour tunnels. The Government

owns ten road tunnels and the other five are private tunnels.

The Lion Rock Tunnel, opened in November 1967, provides a link from north Kowloon to Sha Tin. It is used by 85 000 vehicles daily. The toll is \$8.

The Aberdeen Tunnel was opened in March 1982. It is used by 61 000 vehicles daily. The toll is \$5.

The toll-free Kai Tak Tunnel, opened in June 1982, runs beneath the runway of the former Kai Tak Airport linking the central area of Kowloon with Kwun Tong and is used by 57 000 vehicles per day.

The Shing Mun Tunnels, opened in April 1990, link up Tsuen Wan to Sha Tin. They are used by 49 000 vehicles each day. The toll is \$5.

The Tseung Kwan O Tunnel, opened in November 1990, provides a road link between Kwun Tong and Tseung Kwan O New Town. On average, 72 000 vehicles per day use the tunnel. The toll is \$3.

The dual three-lane 1.6-kilometre long Cheung Tsing Tunnel, which is within the Tsing Ma Control Area, forms part of Route 3 and links West Kowloon with Lantau and northwest New Territories. It is toll-free.

The Cross-Harbour Tunnel, opened in August 1972, is used by 121 000 vehicles daily. Upon the expiry of the franchise on August 31, 1999, the tunnel is vested in the Government. Tolls range from \$8 to \$30.

The Eastern Harbour Crossing, opened in September 1989, is operated by the New Hong Kong Tunnel Company Limited. It is used by 63 000 vehicles daily. Tolls range from \$13 to \$75.

The Tate's Cairn Tunnel is run by the Tate's Cairn Tunnel Company Limited. Opened in June 1991, it is used by 54 000 vehicles daily. Tolls range from \$11 to \$31.

The Western Harbour Crossing, opened in April 1997, is operated by the Western Harbour Tunnel Company Limited. It is used by 48 000 vehicles daily. Tolls range from \$50 to \$305. The tunnel company offered concessionary tolls and the actual tolls range from \$22 to \$115.

The Tai Lam Tunnel and Yuen Long Approach Road is operated by the Route 3 (CPS) Company Limited. Opened in May 1998, it is used by 48 000 vehicles daily. Tolls range from \$40 to \$150. The tunnel company offered concessionary tolls and the actual tolls range from \$20 to \$120.

The Discovery Bay Tunnel Link, opened in May 2000, is operated by the Discovery Bay Road Tunnel Company Limited. It is used by 1 000 vehicles daily with tolls ranging from \$50 to \$250.

Tai Wai Tunnel, Sha Tin Heights Tunnel, and Eagle's Nest Tunnel which are within the Tsing Sha Control Area, form part of Route 8 and link Sha Tin with Cheung Sha Wan. Opened in March 2008, the tunnels are used by 18 000 vehicles daily. The toll is \$8.

**Central to Mid-Levels Escalator and Walkway System:** Opened in 1993, the system consists of covered walkways, 18 reversible one-way escalators and three travelators. It starts at Des Voeux Road Central, passes through narrow streets and ends at Conduit Road. Managed by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, the system is used by about 81 000 people daily.

**Tsing Ma Control Area (TMCA):** Opened in May 1997, it covers a key section of the highway route to North-West Lantau, Ma Wan and the Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok. It comprises a 21-kilometre expressway network including Tsing Kwai Highway, Cheung Tsing Tunnel, Cheung Tsing Highway, Northwest Tsing Yi Interchange, Ting Kau Bridge, Tsing Yi North Coastal Road, Lantau Link, Ma Wan Road and North Lantau Highway (up to Sunny Bay Interchange). On average, 56 000 vehicles per day use Lantau Link.

Equipped with the most extensive traffic control and surveillance system ever introduced in Hong Kong, TMCA

is managed, operated and maintained by the Transport Infrastructure Management Limited. With a one-way toll collection arrangement, vehicles travelling on Lantau Link will be charged twice the single journey toll at Lantau Toll Plaza or Ma Wan Toll Plaza. The double tolls range from \$20 to \$80.

**Cross-boundary Traffic:** There are two rail boundary crossings, namely the Lo Wu and the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Crossings, connecting Hong Kong and the Mainland. The Lo Wu boundary crossing handles an average of about 236 200 travellers a day; whilst Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Crossing handles about 62 300 travellers a day (in which about 33 500 are railway passengers). There are also about 8 000 passengers a day taking the through train services travelling between Kowloon and the various cities on the Mainland.

Apart from rail boundary crossings, there are four road crossings connecting Hong Kong and the Mainland, namely Lok Ma Chau, Man Kam To, Sha Tau Kok and Shenzhen Bay road crossings. The Lok Ma Chau crossing

is currently the only road crossing that operates round-the-clock for goods and passenger vehicle traffic, while the Shenzhen Bay crossing is the only road crossing implementing the co-location arrangement where travellers can go through the necessary clearance procedures of the two sides under one roof. The daily average numbers of cross-boundary travellers who use the Lok Ma Chau, Man Kam To, Sha Tau Kok and Shenzhen Bay crossings are about 95 200, 5 800, 6 100 and 42 400 per day respectively.

The total number of cross-boundary travellers using the above crossings reaches about 456 000 passengers a day among which 277 700 passengers by rail, 78 900 by cross-boundary coaches, 27 900 by shuttle buses at Lok Ma Chau, 20 300 by other cross-boundary vehicles and 51 000 by other local public transport services.

For cross-boundary vehicular traffic, the average daily number of vehicle trips recorded at Lok Ma Chau, Man Kam To, Sha Tau Kok and Shenzhen Bay crossings are 24 300, 5 100, 2 300 and 7 000 respectively, giving a total of 38 700 vehicle trips a day.