

REST ASSURED:

# Hong Kong

A waterfront wonder with harbour views, an outré play den and a disco crashpad with a hint of Zen. **Josephine Davies** slumbers soundly in Southeast Asia's glittery metropolis



## £235 InterContinental 'Colossal tankers glide past at nose-grazing range'

Suppress any chain-hotel snobbery – this waterfront pile in Kowloon has the most hypnotic views in Hong Kong. Despite rooms having had a multi-million-pound makeover, they still have to work hard to distract from what lies beyond the plate-glass windows: your gaze is drawn to a panorama of colossal tankers gliding through the world's busiest harbour at nose-grazing range; in their wake bobs an all-sorts selection of

jaunty maroon-sailed junks, polished gin palaces and zippy green Star ferries. In the distance, steely skyscrapers dwarf the freighters, disappearing into clouds that cloak the island's jungly peaks.

Your room has plenty to please the eye: buttery marble bathrooms with rain-dance showers, Asian-influenced decor in edible shades, and giant, sink-in beds. Saunter down to the pool terrace around 8pm for the city's nightly laser

show, best admired from the infinity pool. Then dress up for a Golden Dragon (a coconut-laced boozy potion) in the cathedral-like bar downstairs. There's a gawp-inducing choice of food, from sushi at Nobu to dim sum at Yan Toh Heen. Our advice? Draw back the curtains, order room service, and savour it alongside the views. *InterContinental* (00 852 2721 1211, [www.intercontinental.com](http://www.intercontinental.com)) has doubles from £235, room only.

## £146 Hotel LKF 'The disco-look lobby belies restful rooms'

Once a shabby tangle of alleys lined with seedy bars, the Lan Kwai Fong district has polished up its act: now it's a stronghold of restaurants and bars, with sloping streets full of pin-striped expats preparing for a night on the tiles (that's every evening in Hong Kong). In the thick of things is Hotel LKF, with a suitably nocturnal-look lobby of black granite, chrome and creamy crushed velvet – it could almost do with a clipboard-wielding bouncer on the door.

Take the lift upstairs and the look shifts from disco to sophisticated: soft suedes and restful tones of ivory and camel. Rooms have pale pine dressers, plump goose-down pillows and all-marble bathrooms stocked



with (now almost inescapable) Molton Brown. The only shot of colour through the Zen palette is the tomato-red of the espresso machines, which deliver a rich lily blend. You'll need the caffeine jolt after a night on the 30th floor: Azure is currently Hong Kong's favourite party pad, a panoramic space with dizzying views below,

especially from the terrace. It's open until 1am on Fridays and Saturdays, and gets packed, so ask for a room away from the action if you're a light sleeper. That said, with jet lag on your side, you could just as easily join in the fun. *Hotel LKF* (00 852 3518 9688, [www.hotel-lkf.com.hk](http://www.hotel-lkf.com.hk)) has doubles from £146, B&B.

## £74 The Luxe Manor 'Surrealist style and free nibbles at turndown'

Dali-meets-Versace sounds like a head-spinning decorative mix, but in this 159-room hotel it manages to feel playful without overpowering. It certainly appeals to fashionable travellers on a mission. Nathan Road's 'golden mile' of shops, malls and tailors is a credit-card flick away, and the metro whisks you to Central in two stops when you want to head across the harbour.

Located down a busy Kowloon sidestreet sprouting neon signs, The Luxe Manor's smart exterior says business-hotel, but inside lies a mad-hatter lobby: patent-leather pouffes compete with high-backed sofas in scarlet velvet, gilded throne chairs and tangerine shag rugs. Rooms are a touch more subdued: icing-white walls,



*trompe l'oeil* mantelpieces, leopard-print carpets and mini-bars disguised in antique dressers. They're also compact – upgrade to one of the six themed suites on the 12th floor and you'll get more space. More Surrealism, too, from a Nordic-look nook (fur throws, basins seemingly carved from blocks of ice) to a tented 1,001 Nights fantasy.

Free nibbles (madeleines, truffles) at turndown are a nice surprise, especially given the affordable rates. The downside? Most rooms gaze upon alarmingly close high-rise flats. Keep your curtains drawn when changing to avoid flashing the neighbours. *The Luxe Manor* (00 852 3763 8888, [www.theluxemanor.com](http://www.theluxemanor.com)) has doubles from £74, B&B. ■

## And the best of the rest...



**£280 MANDARIN ORIENTAL...** has glossy good looks, smooth service and the city's most decadent spa – an entire, moodily-lit floor dedicated to pampering. Try the signature two-hour Time Rituals (£124). *Doubles from £280, room only* (00 852 2522 0111, [www.mandarinoriental.com](http://www.mandarinoriental.com)).

**£164 JIA...** is a Philippe Starck-designed fashion haunt, which lit Hong Kong's boutique-hotel blue touchpaper. How? With white-on-white rooms with splashes of acid yellow and hot pink. *Doubles from £164, B&B* (00 852 3196 9000, [www.jiahongkong.com](http://www.jiahongkong.com)).

**£90 RENAISSANCE HARBOUR VIEW...** has bland rooms, but shares the posh Grand Hyatt's enormous open-air pool next door. A great value way to enjoy its amazing views. *Doubles from £90, room only* (00 852 280 28888, [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)).

**£66 ICE HOUSE...** is a hip budget option with a great location downtown: modern, airy studios display funky touches (glass-cube showers) and can be rented by the day, week or month. Book ahead. *Studios from £66, room only* (00 852 2836 7333, [www.icehouse.com.hk](http://www.icehouse.com.hk)).

**£60 THE MINDEN...** is a clean, comfortable Kowloon crash pad: rooms are nothing to write home about, but the fifth-floor wine bar is a leafy treat, with alfresco tables lit by fairy lights. *Doubles from £60, B&B* (00 852 2739 7777, [www.theminden.com](http://www.theminden.com)).

**British Airways (0844 493 0787, [www.ba.com](http://www.ba.com)) flies to Hong Kong from Heathrow, from £470. Virgin Atlantic (0870 574 7747, [www.virginatlantic.com](http://www.virginatlantic.com)) flies from Heathrow from £621.**