



The famous green-and-white Star Ferry prepares to set off for the glittering lights of Hong Kong Island



Housed in a former pawnshop dating back to 1888, The Pawn serves an array of modern British classics



The venerable Peak Tram has been shuttling passengers from Central to the Peak for more than 120 years

In the Mood for Love

Discover the most romantic secrets of Hong Kong, away from the soap operas your grandma likes

PEOPLE OFTEN GET THE WRONG idea about Hong Kong, imagining it to be a hard-charging, neon-strewn metropolis – a surging sea of never-ending skyscrapers. Although that is true, the city also has a gentler side, one that enjoys long walks in the park, falling in love at the cinema and dinner by candlelight. Come with us as we romance the Pearl of the Orient.

DISCOVER One of the most romantic things that you can do in the city is also one of the cheapest. Since 1888, the distinctive green and white ‘Star’ ferries (starferry.com.hk) have plied the waters between

Hong Kong Island and Kowloon, carrying commuters across the busy harbour that divides the city. Today mainly used by tourists and reminiscing locals, the boats are all named after stars, such as Morning Star, Shining Star and Twinkling Star. Aim to catch a ferry at dusk, as the lights on the buildings flicker on, and gaze out onto one of the world’s most amazing sunset views – remembering to wish upon a star. For those with a head for heights, the city has another venerable vehicle that will transport you up into the clouds: the famed Peak Tram (thepeak.com.hk). The exact same age as the Star Ferry, it carries passengers from the Central district up to the Peak, where you can take

in the views of the city far below, or enjoy an intimate walk on the leafy path that circumvents the mountain. Of course, if money is no object, then there’s no better way to show your love than booking an



The Peninsula Hotel’s one-of-a-kind Fly & Dine helicopter tour is the only way to see Hong Kong in style

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exclusive ‘Fly and Dine’ helicopter tour with The Peninsula (hongkong.peninsula.com), which sees you take a 15-minute flight over the world’s most spectacular skyline, followed by dinner at one of the hotel’s restaurants – we recommend the five-course menu at Felix.



DINE

In a town of a million restaurants, with every cuisine known to man (Moroccan to Mexican, Mongolian to Malaysian; it’s all found here), it’s hard to know where to start. That said, our favourite romantic restaurants always blend sublime

menus with unique atmosphere – and there’s no better example of this in Hong Kong than The Pawn (thepawn.com.hk), a restored 1888 pawn house in Wan Chai that – in homage to the city’s colonial roots – serves up amazing contemporary British cuisine in a nostalgic environment. For a taste of the other side of the coin, make a reservation at Island Tang (islandtang.com) in the heart of Central, where you and yours can savour an outstanding dinner of Cantonese classics in an intensely stylish Chinese setting. However, for views and an evening to remember, there’s only one table in town: Petrus (shangri-la.com). With a regally inspired interior that drips with decadence, this incredible restaurant is perched on the 56th floor of the Island Shangri-La, Hong Kong, boasting a menu of fine French classics, a superb wine list and stunning views. Alternatively, for jaw-dropping vistas from the other side of Victoria Harbour, make your way to the local branch of internationally renowned Japanese restaurant Nobu (noburestaurants.com/hong-kong), where sublime



Bresse chicken is just one of the amazing dishes served at Hong Kong’s most romantic restaurant, Petrus

sushi and sashimi are paired with an equally inspiring panorama.



WATCH Long before many people even visit Hong Kong, they feel they already know it intimately – from the big screen. The city’s movie industry is arguably the biggest tourist attraction in town, but beyond the kung-fu classics, John Woo crime tragedies and slapstick sillies, the city’s celluloid has a truly heartfelt soul. Alongside

masterful cinematographer Christopher Doyle, Wong Kar-wai is responsible for many of them. Although 1994’s *Chungking Express*, with its twin tales of lovelorn Hong Kong policemen and rollercoaster relationships, was enough to send lovers everywhere running into each other’s arms, *In the Mood for Love* (2000), featuring Tony Leung and Maggie Cheung as a couple who can’t quite be together, was embraced by the world. Finally, there’s *Comrades: Almost a Love Story*, the 1996 Peter Chan movie



Following major renovations in 2014, The Pawn is drawing diners with Chef Tom Aikens’ inspired menu

about two mainlanders who immigrate to Hong Kong, fall in love, are forced apart, and then – tearjerker spoiler alert – find each other halfway around the world.



GETTING THERE AirAsia (airasia.com) flies direct from Kuala Lumpur to Hong Kong for upwards of RM600, while Malaysia Airlines (malaysiaairlines.com) has return flights from around RM1,000.