Hotel Jen Hong Kong

Welcome to Hong Kong! On the surface, it’s a city of steel and glass, but its heart beat pumps centuries of heritage across its dynamic landscape. Hotel Jen Hong Kong is located right on the pulse of this thriving commercial hub in the Western District. Everything from traditional cuisine to authentic Chinese markets surround my hotel, which makes discovering new foods, culture and art as easy as choosing a direction as you head out.

One of my favourite places to point new visitors is Po Tuck Street, just a five-minute walk from Hotel Jen Hong Kong. The atmosphere there is lively but quaint, and it’s a great place to get a feel for the neighbourhood. Modern coffee and tea cafes suited for people-watching stand alongside mom-and-pop shops selling sundries and car workshops.

If you would rather be a part of the fray than watch it pass by, head over to Des Voeux Road, which is one block from the hotel. Over 200 dried seafood shops pack the area, but your nose probably already knew that. Follow the scents that intrigue you the most or dive in head first, either way, there are plenty of samples to be had. Keep an eye out for some shutter art adorning the gates of the local vendors, part of the new HK Urban Canvas community art project. You’ll have to get there early or after they close, but the hidden art is a fun reminder that Hong Kong is more than meets the eye upon first glance.

For lunch, it’s my pleasure to point you to Sun Hing Restaurant in the nearby Kennedy Town for some of the best dim sum Hong Kong has to offer. Try their signature steamed custard buns and deep-fried milk along with other classic dim sum items. Open from 3am to 4pm daily, this little no-frills restaurant has no English menu, but don’t hesitate to point and pick what you want from amongst the steaming baskets. But don’t thank me yet, as we’ve yet to have dessert. For that, I direct your attention to Yuen Kee Dessert. Opened since 1855, it is the place in this part of town for traditional Cantonese desserts. The technique of grinding down nuts and sesame to make sweet pastes may be an art of old, but that’s even more reason to try them.

Sunsets in Hong Kong are stunning from just about any vantage point. A favourite spot among residents in the neighbourhood is at the so-called Instagram Pier, a working cargo pier in Kennedy Town with a fantastic harbour view. Alternatively, my team recommends the Victoria Peak Gardens. Here’s a tip: Instead of taking the typical tourist route which involves queuing for the funicular, take a walk through Hong Kong University which is right behind the hotel to not only save time, but also to get a look at the post-renaissance architecture that constitutes this territory’s oldest institution of higher learning. Make your way to the Victoria Peak, and you’ll see from above this sprawling island city amongst the mountains.

At the end of the day, what makes this city so great is that it is a melting pot of continual change, and every day affords visitors the opportunity to explore the area and discover something new.