



Transport

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

There are about 276 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 322 bus routes in Kowloon and the New Territories and 61 cross-harbour routes. Fares for urban routes range from \$2.4 to \$11.2, from \$1.6 to \$38 for the New Territories routes and from \$8.1 to \$34.2 for the cross-harbour routes.

With a fleet of 4 013 buses, mostly double-deckers, KMB is one of the largest road passenger transport operators in the southeast Asia. The total licensed fleet carries about 2.76 million passengers a day.

The New World First Bus Services Limited operates 53 Hong Kong Island routes, 33 cross-harbour routes and 8 routes serving Kowloon and Tseung Kwan O, and carries 502 000 passengers daily by a fleet of 694 buses. Fares range from \$3 to \$11.6 for Hong Kong Island routes, \$3.2 to \$7.5 for Kowloon and Tseung Kwan O routes and from \$8.1 to \$34.2 for the cross-harbour routes.

Citybus Limited operates two bus networks under two franchises. One of the networks comprises 62 Hong Kong Island routes and 31 cross-harbour routes. With a fleet of 741 air-conditioned buses, this network carries about 510 000 passengers a day. Fares range from \$2.5 to \$10.6 for Hong Kong Island routes, and from \$8.9 to \$34.2 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 168 air-conditioned buses. Daily patronage is about 57 000 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 153 air-conditioned buses. Daily patronage is about 73 000 passengers and fares range from \$3.5 to \$28.

The New Lantau Bus Company (1973) Limited operates 22 routes on Lantau Island and carries an average of 39 000 passengers daily. Fares range from \$3 to \$40. The fleet comprises of 83 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 1 592 red minibuses.

Green minibuses operate on fixed routes and frequency at fixed fares. By the end of February 2006, there were 72 green minibus routes on Hong Kong Island, 82 in Kowloon and 198 in the New Territories, employing a total of 2 758 vehicles. Red minibuses carry about 453 200 passengers a day, while green minibuses carry about 1 322 800 passengers daily.

Augmenting franchised buses and PLB fleets are about 6 900 non-franchised buses to provide services mainly for tourists, students, employees and residents. It is estimated that these non-franchised buses carry about 722 000 passengers daily.

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, Discovery Bay Tunnel 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 \$15 for the first two kilometres and \$1.4 for every 0.2 kilometre thereafter. For New Territories taxis, the flagfall is \$12.5 for the first two kilometres with a charge of \$1.2 for every subsequent 0.2 kilometre. Lantau taxis cost \$12 for the first two kilometres and \$1.2 for every 0.2 kilometre thereafter.

Rail Systems: The Kowloon-Canton Railway (East Rail) was extended from Hung Hom to East Tsim Sha Tsui in October 2004. It now runs from Tsim Sha Tsui to the boundary of the Mainland at Lo Wu. There are 14 stations along the 35-kilometre long route. Standard class adult fare ranges from \$3.5 to \$12.5 for domestic travel and from \$20 to \$36.5 for Lo Wu travel. KCR East Rail also 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 eight northbound trains and nine 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, KCR East Rail operates freight service to the Mainland.

KCR East Rail was further expanded in December 2004 with the commissioning of the Ma On Shan Rail running between Wu Kai Sha and Tai Wai of 11.4 km in length and 9 stations. The whole system of East Rail, together with Ma On Shan Rail, carries an average of 925 000 passengers daily.

The Kowloon-Canton Railway (KCR) West Rail started operation in December 2003. It links the Northwest New Territories to West Kowloon, running from Tuen Mun via Yuen Long to Nam Cheong. The rail is 30.5 km long and consists of 9 stations. It carries an average of about 194 000 passengers daily.

The MTR is a railway network, consisting of seven lines – Kwun Tong Line, Tsuen Wan Line, Island Line, Tung Chung Line, Tsung Kwan O Line Disneyland Resort Line and Airport Express Line. The total route length of the railway network is 91 km with a total of 53 stations. The lines were built in stages with the first passenger train having started operation in late 1979. The latest Disneyland Resort Line came into service in August 2005 and the Airport Express Line was extended to a new station at AsiaWorld-Expo in December 2005. The daily patronage on the MTR Lines other than the Airport Express averages about 2.4 million while daily patronage of the Airport Express is about 23 000. Adult single journey fares on the MTR lines range from \$4 to \$26, and \$60 to \$100 for Airport Express.

The Light Rail Transit (LRT) is owned and operated by the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation. In September 1988, phase one of the system was opened, serving Tuen Mun and Yuen Long new towns in the northwest New Territories. 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 kilometres of double track, 119 single-deck light rail vehicles and 68 stops. It is supported by feeder bus services. Adult single journey ticket fares range from \$4 to \$5.8. About 372 000 passengers travel daily on the system.

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 230 000 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 12000 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 \$1.7 to \$5.3 and from \$40 to \$150 respectively.

New World First Ferry Services Limited, took over the operation of the eight inner harbour and outlying island passenger ferry services previously operated by Hong Kong and Yaumati Ferry Company Limited, as licensed ferry services on January 15, 2000. Fares range from \$4.5 to \$32.

The Hong Kong and Kowloon Ferry Limited, Discovery Bay Transportation Services Limited and Park Island Transport Company Limited operate other cross-harbour and outlying island passenger ferry services. Fares range from \$5 to \$27. In 2005, about 154 000 passengers take 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 352 341 licensed private cars, accounting for 64.9 per cent of all vehicles.

Parking: There are about 7 300 parking spaces in 13 government multi-storey car parks which have been

managed by private operators since 1984. There are an estimated 630 000 additional spaces, of which 186 000 are for public use and 444 000 are designated for private use in commercial, residential and industrial premises.

About 17 800 on-street metered parking spaces are provided where they do not obstruct traffic. Where there are limited spaces and a high demand, they are metered to deter prolonged parking. Most metered spaces operate from 8 am to midnight on weekdays and from 10 am to 10 pm on Sundays and public holidays. All the parking meters are now operated by the Octopus card, which is an electronic stored value card for payment of public transport services.

At the end of September 1999, all mechanical parking meters were converted to electronic parking devices (EPDs), which include electronic parking meters and pay-and-display machines. They are operated with a common smart card, the e-Park Card, issued by the Transport Department in denominations of \$100, \$200 and \$300. In 2004, they were migrated to reloadable card-operated parking meters.

Road Tunnels: There are 12 road tunnels, including three immersed-tube cross-harbour tunnels. The Government owns seven 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 88 000 vehicles daily. The toll is \$8.

The Aberdeen Tunnel was opened in March 1982. It is used by 58 000 vehicles daily. The toll is \$5.

The toll-free Airport 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 60 000 vehicles per day.

The Shing Mun Tunnels, opened in April 1990, link up Tsuen Wan to Sha Tin. They are used by 53 000 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, 68 000 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 123 000 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 64 000 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 57 000 vehicles daily. Tolls range from \$10 to \$26.

The Western Harbour Crossing, opened in April 1997, is operated by the Western Harbour Tunnel Company Limited. It is used by 41 000 vehicles daily. Tolls range from \$35 to \$215 after adjustment on July 31, 2005. The tunnel company offered concessionary tolls and the actual tolls range from \$22 to \$110.

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 46 000 vehicles daily. Tolls range from \$25 to \$105. The tunnel company offered concessionary tolls and the actual tolls range from \$17 to \$90.

The Discovery Bay Tunnel Link, opened in May 2000, is operated by the Discovery Bay Road Tunnel Company Limited. It is used by 800 vehicles daily with tolls ranging from \$50 to \$250.

Central-Mid-Levels Escalator and Walkway System:

Opened in 1993, the system consists of covered walkways, 20 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 54 000 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, 51 000 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 Tsing Ma 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.