

Introduction

Canadian travel to China has reached unprecedented levels. The cultural and business connections between Canada and Hong Kong were already well established before the Chinese economy began opening in 1978. Since then, China's encouragement of tourism and business travel, combined with market reforms and the restoration of Chinese sovereignty in Hong Kong, have greatly increased Canadian interest.

Since July 1, 1997, Hong Kong has been a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. It maintains its own currency and regulations concerning visitor entry and business operations. These aspects of travelling to Hong Kong are treated in a separate section of this guide.

Under an agreement with Portugal, the People's Republic of China resumed sovereignty over Macau on December 20, 1999, at which time it also became a Special Administrative Region. Canadians can obtain visas on arrival in Macau. Canadian citizens do not require a visa for a stay of up to 30 days and must have a passport

that is valid for at least 30 days after the intended departure date. A visitor fee of 100 patacas for each adult and 50 patacas for each child up to 12 years old is applied on arrival.

The Canadian Connection

Canada's special relationship with China is based partly on the large Chinese community in Canada. It is estimated that half a million Canadians are from Hong Kong, and approximately 15,000 Hong Kong students attend Canadian universities. Recently, immigration from other parts of China has caught up with and even surpassed that from Hong Kong.

Increasing numbers of Canadian investors and business people have been visiting China since the Chinese government began its program of "open cities" and special economic zones in the late 1970s. Today there are many partnerships between Chinese and Canadian companies in a wide variety of industries, from the traditional sectors to emerging technology and knowledge-based industries.