

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 in China.

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, beginning on page 21.

Under an agreement with Portugal, the People's Republic of China will resume sovereignty over Macao on December 20, 1999, at which time it also will become a Special Administrative Region. Until then, Canadians can obtain visas

on arrival in Macao. A valid passport is required, and there is a fee of HK\$100 for individuals wishing to stay for up to 20 days. After December 20, 1999, there will be changes in residency and citizenship requirements. Canadians resident in Macao should follow developments closely and consult with the Consulate General in Hong Kong to obtain information on how they may be affected.

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