

Hong Kong Ranks In Asia Pacific's Top 10 Most Visited Cities: Mastercard Global Destinations Cities Index

Asia Pacific spearheading travel tailwinds

HONG KONG – September 26, 2017 – Hong Kong is ranked one of Asia Pacific's top 10 most visited destinations for seven consecutive years, according to the **Mastercard Global Destinations Cities Index 2017** released today.

Ranked 11th globally and sixth in Asia Pacific, Hong Kong welcomed **8.86 million international overnight visitors** in 2016. Despite having the same ranking as the previous year, the city saw a 6.1 percent increase in international overnight visitors from 2015, which saw 8.35 million visitors. Overnight arrival to Hong Kong is forecast to grow by **4.5 percent** in 2017.

The city is also expected to see **10.1 percent growth** in **international overnight visitor spending** from **US\$6.06 billion in 2016**, placing it eighth in the region and 17th globally.

In 2016, **South Korea was the biggest feeder market** for Hong Kong, with more than 1 million visitors, followed by Taiwan (872,999), the United States (868,968), Japan (692,529) and the Philippines (675,914).

Ranking the world's 132 top destination cities, the Index analyzes visitor volume and spending for the 2016 calendar year and provides a forecast for annual growth, insights on the fastest growing destination cities, and a deeper understanding of why people travel and how they spend around the world.

Asia Pacific & Global Highlights:

- **Bangkok** continues to be the No. 1 destination city with 19.41 million international overnight visitor arrivals, while **London** came in a close second with 19.06 million visitors. **Singapore** (13.11 million visitors) inched past **New York** (12.7 million visitors) into fifth position for the first time in three years, while **Seoul** (12.39 million visitors) leapfrogged three spots into seventh place.
- **Osaka** leads as the **fastest-growing city** at 24.0 percent while **Jakarta** and **Hanoi's** entrance into the list of top 10 fastest-growing cities point to Southeast Asia's rising significance as a key travel hub.
- In the Index's seven-year history, **China** has grown from being a passive contributor to the region's travel sector to the main driver of growth for visitor arrivals into Asia Pacific's top destinations.
- The Index also tracks the **highest amount of international overnight visitor spending** among each region's top 10 cities. Bringing in US\$91.16 billion in travel expenditure in 2016, **Asia Pacific** outpaced Europe (US\$74.74 billion), and North America (US\$55.02 billion).

Top 10 Destination Cities by International Overnight Visitors in 2016

Global		
Rank	Destination City	No. of Visitors (millions)
1	Bangkok	19.41
2	London	19.06
3	Paris	15.45
4	Dubai	14.87
5	Singapore	13.11
6	New York	12.70
7	Seoul	12.39
8	Kuala Lumpur	11.28
9	Tokyo	11.15
10	Istanbul	9.16

Asia Pacific		
Rank	Destination City	No. of Visitors (millions)
1	Bangkok	19.41
2	Singapore	13.11
3	Seoul	12.39
4	Kuala Lumpur	11.28
5	Tokyo	11.15
6	Hong Kong	8.86
7	Taipei	7.35
8	Osaka	6.98
9	Shanghai	6.38
10	Chennai	5.19

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About the Mastercard Global Destination Cities Index

The Mastercard Index of Global Destination Cities ranks cities in terms of the number of their total international overnight visitor arrivals and the cross-border spending by these same visitors in the destination cities in 2016, and gives visitor and passenger growth forecasts for 2017.

Public data is used in deriving the international overnight visitor arrivals and their cross-border spending in each of the 132 destination cities. This Index and the accompanying reports are not based on Mastercard volumes or transactional data.

About Mastercard

Mastercard (NYSE: MA), www.mastercard.com, is a technology company in the global payments industry. We operate the world's fastest payments processing network, connecting consumers, financial institutions, merchants, governments and businesses in more than 210 countries and territories. Mastercard products and solutions make everyday commerce activities – such as shopping, traveling, running a business and managing finances – easier, more secure and more efficient for everyone. Follow us on Twitter [@MastercardNews](https://twitter.com/MastercardNews) or [@MastercardAP](https://twitter.com/MastercardAP), join the discussion on the Beyond the Transaction Blog and subscribe for the latest news.

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