



# Watercraft Philately



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## Welcome to next port of call: Hong Kong



By Dan Rodlie

On a trip to Taiwan, a few years ago, we scheduled a lay-over in Hong Kong (HK), and as usual, I was on the hunt for ships that I could take pictures of, especially if they had a connection to stamps.

Arriving in Hong Kong we learned that the fastest, cheapest and most convenient way to downtown is to take the train.

Buy a MTR tourist card at the airport for the airport trains and an Octopus card for busses. They both provide great discounts on many of HK's key attractions as well as unlimited travel on busses and the subway.

The train from the airport goes to the main station in HK, unless going to Kowloon, where it's easy to take a cab to the hotel. We met a business person on the plane who told us to pay for the business upgrade at the hotel – well worth the extra cost, he said. So, on arrival, we paid the extra, which gave us an upgraded room on one of the top floors, free drinks and food at the business lounge every day from 4-8, plus free shuttle to downtown and lots more. We highly recommend paying the extra. The room had a great view over the harbor, but the first few days were hazy so not the best conditions for taking pictures. By the third day, it finally cleared up so I could get some better shots.

Over the years, HK has issued over 130 stamps depicting a variety of watercraft or harbor scenes. They include historical views of the harbor, the world-famous Star Ferry, the new container port and cruise terminal, and various local watercrafts.

I wanted to purchase some stamps, so first stop was the central post office

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