Hong Kong rankings

Overview

Hong Kong has achieved impressive progress as Asia's world city, which is reflected in various international rankings covering a range of areas.

Economy and business

- **World's freest economy** (Canada-based Fraser Institute: Economic Freedom of the World 2026 Annual Report)
- **World No.2 and Asia-Pacific No.2 for competitiveness** (International Institute for Management Development (IMD): World Competitiveness Yearbook 2026)
- **Asia-Pacific No.6 for corporate governance** (CG Watch 2023 compiled by Asian Corporate Governance Association and CLSA Limited)

Finance and trade

- **World No.3 and Asia-Pacific No.1 global financial centre** (UK-based Z/Yen and China Development Institute from Shenzhen: Global Financial Centres Index released in September 2026)
- **Leading investment hub: World No.3** and **World No.5** for foreign direct investment inflows and outflows respectively in 2025 (UNCTAD: World Investment Report 2026)
- **World's 7th largest and Asia's 4th largest stock market** by market capitalisation among exchanges at end-August 2026 (around US$6,015 billion)
- **World No.2** for **Initial Public Offering (IPO) funds raised**[1] in the first nine months of 2026 (US$49.74 billion)
- **World's largest offshore RMB hub** with total deposits of RMB 1,345.2 billion (end-July 2026)
- **World's largest cross-boundary wealth management centre** (Boston Consulting Group: Global Wealth Report 2026)
- **Highest concentration of insurers in Asia** (over 160 authorised insurers)
- **World's 5th largest trading entity in merchandise trade** (World Trade Organization: Global Trade Outlook and Statistics released in March 2026)

Innovation and technology

- **Asia-Pacific No.2 and World No.4 for digital competitiveness** (IMD: World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2025)
- **World's lowest** taxed data centre market (Cushman & Wakefield: 2026 Global Data Center Market Comparison)
- **Asia-Pacific No.7 smart centre** (Smart Centres Index by UK-based Z/Yen released in May 2026)
- **Asia-Pacific No.2 and World No.6 for the state of digital evolution** (Digital Evolution Index 2026 compiled by US-based The Fletcher School at Tufts University and Mastercard)
- **World No.1 innovation cluster** - Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Guangzhou cluster (World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO): Global Innovation Index 2026)

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1 Funds raised exclude fundraising by listing of special purpose acquisition companies.

- **World No.8** and **Asia No.2** smart city (International Society for Urban Informatics: ISUI Smart City Index 2025)
- **Southeast Asia, East Asia & Oceania No.5 and World No.14 for innovation performance** (WIPO: Global Innovation Index 2026)
- Among **World's Top 25** smart cities (IMD: Smart City Index 2026)

Transport and infrastructure

- **Best Airport in the World** (Global Travel Awards 2026)
- **Best Airport in China** (2026 TTG China Travel Awards)
- **World No.1 air cargo hub** and **World's 8th busiest airport for international passengers** (Airports Council International: World busiest airport rankings 2025)
- **Airport of the Year 2026** (Air Cargo Week: World Air Cargo Awards 2026)
- **World No.2 airport** (Business Traveller Awards 2026)
- **Asia's Leading Airport** and **China's Leading Airport** (World Travel Awards 2026)
- **World No.4 international maritime centre** (Xinhua and Baltic Exchange: 2026 Xinhua-Baltic International Shipping Centre Development Index)
- **World No.3 public transport system** (2026) (Time Out magazine index survey)
- **World No.2 public transit system** and **Asia No.1 sustainable mobility system** (Oliver Wyman Forum in partnership with University of California, Berkeley: Urban Mobility Readiness Index 2024)

Education and talent

- **5 universities in World Top 100 for 4 consecutive years**: Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2027/ Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2027: HKU (33^{rd}/11^{th}), CUHK (42^{nd}/18^{th}), HKUST (58^{th}/33^{rd}), CityU (70^{th}/52^{nd}) and PolyU (79^{th}/50^{th})
- **5 universities in Top 20 in Asia**: Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2026/QS World University Rankings: Asia 2027/US News and World Report: Best Global Universities Rankings 2026-2027: HKU (6^{th}/1^{st}/8^{th}), CUHK (10^{th}/5^{th}/5^{th}), HKUST (12^{th}/9^{th}/17^{th}), CityU (14^{th}/4^{th}/9^{th}) and PolyU (18^{th}/9^{th}/11^{th})
- **4 universities listed among the world's most international universities**: Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026: CityU (1^{st}), HKUST (2^{nd}), HKU (3^{rd}) and CUHK (14^{th})
- **3 EMBA programmes in World Top 25**: Financial Times EMBA Ranking 2026: Kellogg-HKUST EMBA programme (1^{st}); CUHK EMBA Programme (18^{th}); and HKU-Fudan MBA (International) programme (24^{th}). QS EMBA Rankings 2026 (Joint Programmes): Kellogg/HKUST EMBA programme (5^{th}); HKU/Fudan IMBA programme (18^{th})
- In Financial Times MBA Ranking 2026, HKUST ranked No. 24 and HKU ranked No. 33 worldwide
- In 2026-27, Bloomberg Businessweek ranked the HKUST's MBA programme No.3 in Asia-Pacific region
- **World No.1 for 3 subjects:** Hospitality and Tourism Management (PolyU) and Transportation Science & Technology (PolyU)(ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2026); Education and Educational Research (CUHK) (US News and World Report: Best Global Universities Rankings by Subjects 2026-2027)
- **World Top 10 subjects**: Dentistry (HKU, 2^{nd}), Education & Training (HKU, 5^{th} / EdUHK, 7^{th}), Nursing (CUHK, 6^{th}) and Performing Arts (HKAPA, 10^{th}) (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026)

- **Asia No.1 subjects:** Arts and Humanities (CUHK), Clinical Medicine (CUHK), Endocrinology and Metabolism (CUHK), Gastroenterology and Hepatology (CUHK), Immunology (HKU), Infectious Diseases (HKU) and Microbiology (HKU) (US News and World Report: Best Global Universities Rankings by Subjects 2026-2027); Dentistry (HKU), Education and Training (HKU), Nursing (CUHK) and Performing Arts (HKAPA) (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026)
- **World No.4** and **Asia No.1** for **talent competitiveness** (IMD: World Talent Ranking 2025)

Safety, security, rule of law

- **World No.2 most preferred seat for arbitration** (Queen Mary University of London: International Arbitration Survey 2025)
- **World No.4** and **Asia No.1** global city (Schroders Global Cities Index 2024)
- **World No.5 and Asia No.2** for entrepreneurs to live in (UK tech company SumUp: The Best Cities for Entrepreneurs to Live in 2024)
- **Asia No.2 and World No.18 for control of corruption; Asia No.2 and World No.8 for regulatory quality; Asia No.3 and World No.16 for government effectiveness;** and **Asia No.5 for rule of law** (World Bank: Worldwide Governance Indicators, 2025 updates)
- **World No.7 and East Asia and Pacific No.3 for order and security** and **World No.10 and East Asia and Pacific No.3 for absence of corruption** (2026 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index)
- **Asia-Pacific No.2** and **World No.12** least corrupt place among 182 countries/territories (Transparency International: Corruption Perceptions Index 2025)

Leisure

- **World No.8 for human development** based on life expectancy, access to knowledge and standard of living (United Nations' Human Development Report 2025)
- **World No.7** and **Asia No.4** leading global city (A.T. Kearney's 2025 Global Cities Index)
- **World No.2** best business city (Business Traveller Asia-Pacific Awards 2024)
- **World No.15** and **Asia No.5** best city (Time Out magazine: The 50 best cities in the world for 2026)
- **World's No.2** in international arrivals (Euromonitor International's Top 100 City Destinations Index 2025)
- **World No.2 most Muslim-friendly travel destination** (non-Organization of Islamic Cooperation) (Mastercard-CrescentRating Global Muslim Travel Index 2026)
- Among **World's "Coolest Neighbourhoods"** for six consecutive years: Starstreet Precinct, Wan Chai (2026), Sheung Wan (2025), Kowloon City (2024); Sheung Wan (2023); Wan Chai (2022); Sai Kung (2021) (Time Out magazine index survey)
- **World's 2nd "Coolest Street"** in 2024: **Hollywood Road** in Central, Hong Kong Island (Time Out magazine survey)
- **Kai Tak Sports Park**: Among **World's Greatest Places of 2026** (Time Magazine: The World's Greatest Places of 2026) / **Venue of the Year** (TheStadiumBusiness Awards 2026)

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