

# Macau



Macau is a city with two faces. On the one hand, the fortresses, churches and food of its former colonial master Portugal speak to a uniquely Mediterranean style on the China coast. On the other, Macau is the self-styled Las Vegas of the East.

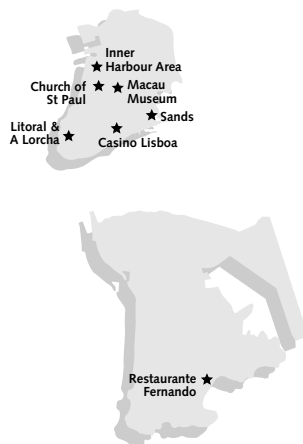
And while that comparison might sound overblown, it's not. During the past few years charismatic-but-sleepy little Macau has experienced the sort of boom usually associated with cities like Shànghǎi. But rather than skyscrapers and office towers, the construction here is all about Vegas-style mega-casinos and hotels. The reason, of course, is that casinos are legal in Macau, while in China and nearby Hong Kong they're not. It's a big market...

There is, however, much more to Macau than gambling. The peninsula and the islands of Coloane and Taipa constitute a colourful palette of pastels and ordered greenery. The Portuguese influence is everywhere: cobbled back streets, baroque churches, stone fortresses, Art Deco buildings and restful parks and gardens. It's a unique fusion of East and West that has been recognised by Unesco, which in 2005 named 30 buildings and squares collectively as the Historic Centre of Macau World Heritage Site. There are also several world-class museums.

Especially if you've been in China for a while you'll also find there is a distinctly different feel to Macau. While about 95% of residents are Chinese, the remainder is mostly made up of Portuguese and Macanese (people with mixed Portuguese, Chinese and/or African blood). It's this fusion of Mediterranean and Asian peoples, lifestyles, temperaments and food – oh, the food – that makes Macau so much fun.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the outstanding **Macau Museum** (p572) at Monte Forte, a fascinating introduction to the territory
- Climb the hauntingly beautiful ruins of the **Church of St Paul** (p572), the very symbol of Macau
- Compare the old-style kitsch of the **Casino Lisboa** (p582) with the Vegas-style cash at the **Sands** (p582)
- Tuck into Portuguese and Macanese soul food at **Litoral, A Lorcha** or **Restaurante Fernando** (p579)
- Wander the narrow streets and lanes of the **Inner Harbour area** (p569) for a peek at Macau's unique personality



■ AREA CODE: 853    ■ POPULATION: 482,000    ■ www.macautourism.gov.mo

## HISTORY

Portuguese galleons first visited Macau to trade in the early 16th century and in 1557, as a reward for clearing out pirates endemic to the area, they were allowed to establish a tiny enclave here. As trade with China grew so did Macau, which became the principal meeting point between China and the West. However, after the Opium War between the Chinese and the British and the subsequent establishment of Hong Kong, Macau went into a long decline.

China's Cultural Revolution spilled over into the territory in 1966–67. The government reportedly proposed that Portugal should leave Macau forever but, fearing the loss of foreign trade, the Chinese refused the offer.

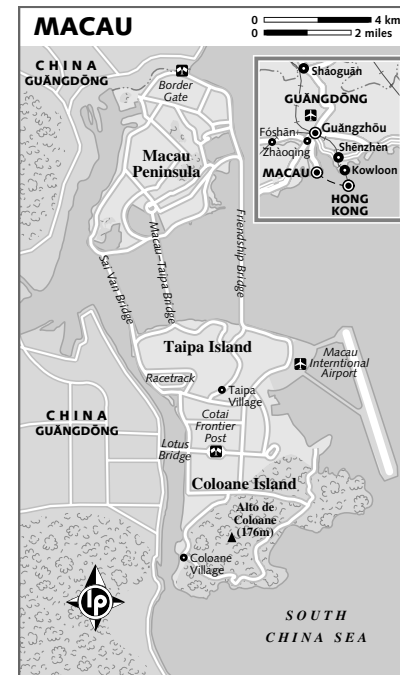
In 1999, under the Sino-Portuguese Pact, Macau was returned to China and designated a Special Administrative Region (SAR). Like Hong Kong, the pact ensures Macau a 'high degree of autonomy' in all matters except defence and foreign affairs for 50 years.

## LANGUAGE

Cantonese and Portuguese are the official languages of Macau, though very few people speak Portuguese. English is harder to find here than in Hong Kong, but in most mid-range and top-end hotels, casinos, restaurants and tourist zones you should be able to get by. Mandarin is reasonably well understood, though note that most written Chinese is in traditional characters, not the simplified forms found in Mainland China.

## ORIENTATION

Lying 65km west of Hong Kong, on the opposite side of the mouth of the Pearl River, tiny-but-growing Macau measures just 28



sq km in area. Most of the sights are on the peninsula jutting down from Zhūhái on the mainland. Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro (San Ma Lo, or 'New St', in Cantonese), running from Avenida da Praia Grande to the Inner Harbour, is Macau's main street. Its extension, Avenida do Infante Dom Henrique, runs south to the Outer Harbour.

Three bridges lead south to Taipa Island, which in turn is connected to the much quieter Coloane Island by the Cotai Strip,

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The name 'Macau' is derived from the name of the goddess A-Ma, also known as Tin Hau. At the southwestern tip of Macau Peninsula stands the A-Ma Temple; many people believe that when the Portuguese first arrived on this spot and asked the name of the place, they were told 'A-Ma Gau' (bay of A-Ma).

According to legend, A-Ma, a poor girl looking for passage to Canton (now Guǎngzhōu), was turned away by wealthy junk owners. Instead, a poor fisherman took her on board; shortly afterwards a storm blew up, wrecking all the junks but leaving the fishing boat unscathed. When it returned to the Inner Harbour, A-Ma walked to the top of nearby Barra Hill and, in a glowing aura of light, ascended to heaven. In her honour, the fisherman built a temple on the spot where they had landed.

In modern Cantonese, 'Macau' is Ou Mun, meaning 'gateway of the bay'.

which was once just a causeway but is now reclaimed land that is home to several huge new casino resorts.

## Maps

The Macau Government Tourist Office (MGTO) distributes the excellent (and free) *Macau Tourist Map*, with tourist sights and streets labelled in Portuguese and Chinese. Small inset maps highlight the Taipa and Coloane areas and show bus routes.

## INFORMATION

The **Macau Museums Pass** (adult/child under 18 & senior MOP\$25/12) allows entry to a half-dozen of Macau's most important museums over a five-day period.

## Emergency

In the event of an emergency, dial ☎ 999 or ☎ 112 for the specific tourist hotline, where you should find an English-speaker. Otherwise, the police are on ☎ 573 333 and the fire services on ☎ 572 222.

## Internet Access

**Macau Museum of Art** (Map pp570-1; Macau Cultural Centre, Avenida Xian Xing Hai; ☎ 10am-7pm Tue-Sun) A library on the ground floor has internet access.

**Trendway Computer & Cyber** (Map p573; ☎ 921 847; 27 Rua de Madeira; per hr MOP\$5; ☎ 24hr) Burns CDs, scans, Skype etc.

**Unesco Internet Café** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 727 066; Alameda Doutor Carlos d'Assumpção; per 30/60min MOP\$5/10; ☎ noon-8pm Wed-Mon)

## Internet Resources

Useful Macau websites:

**Cityguide** (www.cityguide.gov.mo) Strong practical information such as transport.

**GoMacau** (www.gomacau.com) Up-to-date information on hotels, flights, sights, entertainment and activities.

**Macau Cultural Institute** (www.icm.gov.mo) Macau's cultural offerings month by month.

**Macau Government Tourist Office** (www.macau-tourism.gov.mo) The best source of information for visiting Macau.

**Macau Yellow Pages** (www.yip.com.mo) Telephone directory, with maps.

## Medical Services

Macau's two hospitals both have 24-hour emergency services.

**Centro Hospitalar Conde São Januário** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 313 731; Estrada do Visconde de São Januário) Southwest of Guia Fort.

**Hospital Kiang Wu** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 371 333; Rua de Coelho do Amaral) Northeast of the ruins of the Church of St Paul.

## Money

### ATMS

ATMs are everywhere, especially just outside the Hotel Lisboa, where you'll find half a dozen. Most allow you to choose between patacas and Hong Kong dollars.

## CHANGING MONEY

The pataca is pegged to the Hong Kong dollar (see p521) at a rate of MOP\$103.20 to HK\$100. In effect, the two currencies are interchangeable and Hong Kong dollars, including coins, are accepted here. Chinese renminbi is also accepted in many places at one-to-one, though you can't spend patacas anywhere else, so use them before you leave.

You can change cash and travellers cheques at the banks lining Avenida da Praia Grande and Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro. Major credit cards are accepted by many businesses.

## COSTS

Macau is generally much cheaper than Hong Kong, though prices do rise on weekends, and in the case of hotels the rise can be sharp.

As in China, tipping is not expected, though a gratuity offered will not be refused. Top-end hotels add a 10% service charge and a 5% tourism tax to their room rates. Most stores have fixed prices, but most street markets are prepared to bargain a little.

## CURRENCY

Macau's currency is the pataca (MOP\$), which is divided into 100 avos. Bills are issued in denominations of MOP\$10, MOP\$20, MOP\$50, MOP\$100, MOP\$500 and MOP\$1000. There are copper coins worth 10, 20 and 50 avos and silver-coloured MOP\$1, MOP\$2, MOP\$5 and MOP\$10.

## Post

**Main post office** (Map p573; ☎ 323 666; Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat); ferry terminal branch (Map pp570-1; ☎ 396 8526; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat) Little red vending machines dispense stamps throughout Macau. Poste restante service is available at counters No 1 and 2 of the main post office.

## Telephone

**Companhia de Telecomunicações de Macau** (CTM; Map p573; ☎ inquiry hotline 601 1000; www.ctm.net; Kam Loi Bldg, 22 Rua do Doutor Pedro José Lobo; ☎ 10.30am-7.30pm) is Macau's main telephone company.

Local calls are free from private phones and most hotel telephones, while public payphones cost MOP\$1 for five minutes. All payphones permit International Direct Dialling (IDD) using a phonecard available from CTM for between MOP\$50 and MOP\$200. Rates are cheaper from 9pm to 8am during the week and all day on weekends.

SIM cards are cheap and widely available. CTM prepaid cards cost from MOP\$50 and are good to use in GSM900, 1800 or 1900 mobile phones. Buy them at the ferry terminal.

The international access code is ☎ 00. For Hong Kong, dial ☎ 01 then the number; you do not have to dial Hong Kong's country code (☎ 852). To call Macau from abroad – including from Hong Kong – the country code is ☎ 853.

Some useful numbers:

**International directory assistance** ☎ 101

**Local directory assistance** ☎ 181

**Weather** ☎ 1311

## Tourist Information

The well-organised and helpful **Macau Government Tourist Office** (MGTO; ☎ 315 566, hotline 333 000; www.macautourism.gov.mo) has outlets at the **Largo do Senado** (Map p573; ☎ 397 1120; ☎ 9am-6pm), the **Guia Lighthouse** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 569 808; ☎ 9am-1pm & 2.15-5.30pm), the **ruins of the Church of St Paul** (Map p573; ☎ 358 444; ☎ 9.15am-1pm & 2.30-6pm), and the **Macau ferry terminal** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 726 416; ☎ 9am-10pm). Do pick up its themed leaflets (see below for details) on Macau's sights and bilingual maps.

The MGTO also maintains tourist offices in **Hong Kong** (Map pp526-7; ☎ 2857 2287; Room 336-337, Shun Tak Centre, 200 Connaught Rd, Sheung Wan; ☎ 9am-1pm & 2.15-5.30pm) as well as several other countries.

## Travel Agencies

**China Travel Service** (CTS; Map pp570-1; ☎ 700 888; cts@cts.com.mo; 10th fl, Xin Hua Bldg, 35 Rua de Naga-saki; ☎ 9am-5pm) China visas (MOP\$150 plus photos) are available to most passport-holders in one day.

## Visas

Most travellers, including citizens of the EU, Australia, New Zealand, the USA, Canada and South Africa, can enter Macau with just their passports for between 30 and 90 days. Most others can get a 30-day visa on arrival. They cost MOP\$100/50/200 per adult/child under 12/family.

If you're visiting Macau from China and plan to re-enter China you will need to be on a multiple-entry visa. If your visa expires you can obtain a single one-month extension from the **Macau Immigration Department** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 725 488; ground fl, Travessa da Amizade; ☎ 9am-12.30pm & 2.30-5pm Mon-Fri).

## SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

For a city so small, Macau is packed with important cultural and historical sights, including eight squares and 22 historic buildings that have collectively been named the Historic Centre of Macau World Heritage Site by Unesco. Wandering through the squares, *avenidas* and narrow alleys is easily the best way to see the sights and get a feel for what makes Macau unique.

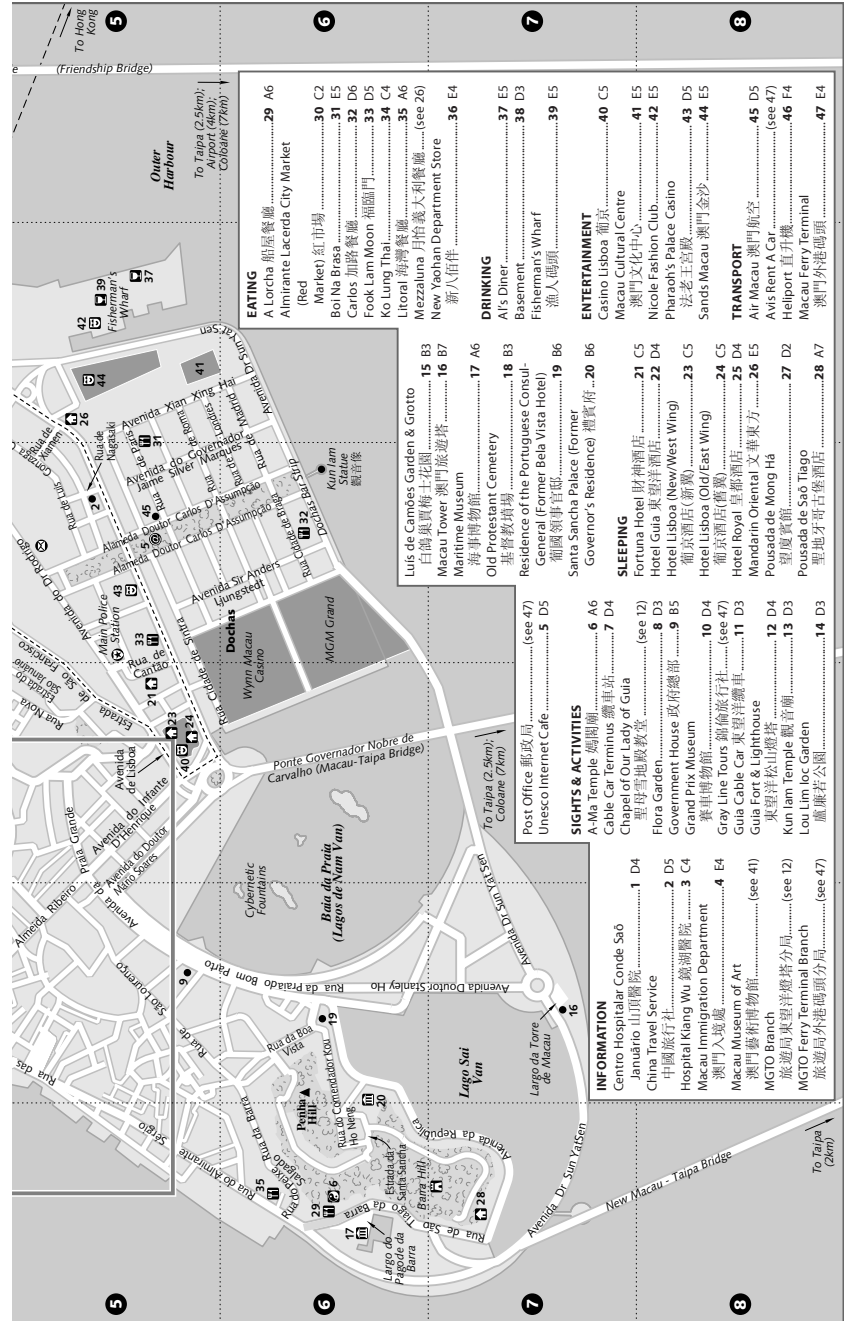
Here we've listed the main sights and a brief description of each. If you're after more detailed descriptions pick up the excellent series of pamphlets by the MGTO before you set off. These include guides to churches,

## MACAU IN A DAY

Start in the **Largo do Senado** (p572), pick up the pamphlets from the **Macau Government Tourist Office** (above) and wander slowly up to the **Ruins of the Church of St Paul** (p572). Spend an hour or so in the **Macau Museum** (p572) to give it all some context, before getting a feel for Macau's living history as you wander back through the tiny streets towards the Inner Harbour Port and lunch at **Litoral** (p579). After lunch take a look around the **A-Ma Temple** (p574) before jumping on a bus to sleepy **Coloane Village** (p577). Take an easy stroll around here, pick up an egg tart at **Lord Stow's Cafe** (p581) and settle in for some beer, people-watching and eventually dinner at the cheap **Café Nga Tim** (p580). Recharged (or just charged?), head in to the **Casino Lisboa** (p581) for a taste of what this city is all about before enjoying a couple more drinks and a band at **Fisherman's Wharf** (p580). Round out the night at the **Basement** (p581), Macau's coolest bar.



See Central Macau Map (p.573)



- EATING**
- A Lorchta 船屋餐廳 .....29 A6
  - Almirante Lacerda City Market (Market) 紅市場 .....30 C2
  - Boi Na Brasa .....31 E5
  - Carlos 加路餐廳 .....32 D6
  - Fook Lam Moon 福蘭門 .....33 D5
  - Ko Lung Thai .....34 C4
  - Litoral 海灣餐廳 .....35 A6
  - Mezzaluna 月恆義大利餐廳 .....(see 26)
  - New Yaohan Department Store 新八佰伴 .....36 E4

- DRINKING**
- Al's Diner .....37 E5
  - Basement .....38 D3
  - Fisherman's Wharf 漁人碼頭 .....39 E5

- ENTERTAINMENT**
- Casino Lisboa 葡京 .....40 C5
  - Macau Cultural Centre 澳門文化中心 .....41 E5
  - Nicole Fashion Club .....42 E5
  - Pharos's Palace Casino 法老王宮殿 .....43 D5
  - Sands Macau 澳門金沙 .....44 E5

- TRANSPORT**
- Air Macau 澳門航空 .....45 D5
  - Avis Rent A Car .....(see 47)
  - Heliport 直升機 .....46 F4
  - Macau Ferry Terminal 澳門外港碼頭 .....47 E4

- SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES**
- A-Ma Temple 媽閣廟 .....6 A6
  - Cable Car terminus 纜車站 .....7 D4
  - Chapel of Our Lady of Guia 聖母雪地殿教堂 .....(see 12)
  - Flora Garden .....8 D3
  - Government House 政府總督府 .....9 B5
  - Grand Prix Museum 賽車博物館 .....10 D4
  - Gray Line Tours 郵輪旅行社 .....(see 47)
  - Guia Cable Car 東望洋纜車 .....11 D3
  - Guia Fort & Lighthouse 東望洋松山燈塔 .....12 D4
  - Kun Iam Temple 觀音廟 .....13 D3
  - Lou Lim Ioc Garden 蓮蓬若公園 .....14 D3

- INFORMATION**
- Centro Hospitalar Conde Sâo Januário 山頂醫院 .....1 D4
  - China Travel Service 中國旅行社 .....2 D5
  - Hospital Kiang Wu 鏡湖醫院 .....3 C4
  - Macau Immigration Department 澳門入境處 .....4 E4
  - Macau Museum of Art 澳門藝術博物館 .....(see 41)
  - MIGTO Branch 旅遊局東望洋總務分局 .....(see 12)
  - MIGTO Ferry Terminal Branch 旅遊局外港碼頭分局 .....(see 47)

- SLEEPING**
- Fortuna Hotel 財神酒店 .....21 C5
  - Hotel Guia 東望洋酒店 .....22 D4
  - Hotel Lisboa (New/West Wing) 葡京酒店(新翼) .....23 C5
  - Hotel Lisboa (Old/East Wing) 葡京酒店(舊翼) .....24 C5
  - Hotel Royal 皇都酒店 .....25 D4
  - Mandarin Oriental 文華東方 .....26 E5
  - Pousada de Mong Ha 翠濠庭賓館 .....27 D2
  - Pousada de São Tiago 聖地牙哥古堡酒店 .....28 A7

- Other Points of Interest**
- Guia Hill 九澳山 .....8
  - Mong Ha Hill 望加錫山 .....9
  - Reservoir 水庫 .....10
  - St. Dominic's Church 聖多明各堂 .....11
  - St. Paul's Church 聖保羅堂 .....12
  - St. Raphael's Church 聖拉沙列堂 .....13
  - St. Vincent's Church 聖文德堂 .....14
  - St. Xavier's Church 聖十字堂 .....15
  - St. Anthony's Church 聖安多尼堂 .....16
  - St. Martin's Church 聖馬丁堂 .....17
  - St. John's Church 聖若望堂 .....18
  - St. Peter's Church 聖彼得堂 .....19
  - St. Francis' Church 聖方濟堂 .....20
  - St. Raphael's Church 聖拉沙列堂 .....21
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  - St. Francis' Church 聖方濟堂 .....55
  - St. Raphael's Church 聖拉沙列堂 .....56
  - St. Vincent's Church 聖文德堂 .....57
  - St. John's Church 聖若望堂 .....58
  - St. Peter's Church 聖彼得堂 .....59
  - St. Francis' Church 聖方濟堂 .....60

temples, museums, outdoor attractions, the ruins of St Paul's Church and, most particularly, walking tours. These, plus a detailed guide to the World Heritage-listed sites, are available from MGTO offices (p569).

At many sights seniors over 60 and children 11 or under are admitted free – ask.

### Central Macau Peninsula

Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro – called San Ma Lo (New St) in Cantonese – is the peninsula's main thoroughfare and home to the charming **Largo do Senado** (Map p573), a swirling black and white tiled square surrounded by colonial buildings and near to several major sights. It's also a good place to refresh, with several cafés in Travessa de São Domingos (see p580).

### CHURCH OF ST DOMINIC

At the end of the square, this 17th-century baroque **church** (Igreja de São Domingos; Map p573; Largo de São Domingos; ☎ 8am–5pm) is arguably the most beautiful in Macau. It contains the **Treasury of Sacred Art** (Tesouro de Arte Sacra; Map p573; ☎ 367 706; ☎ 10am–6pm), an Aladdin's Cave of ecclesiastical art and liturgical plates exhibited over three floors.

### LEAL SENADO

Meaning 'Loyal Senate', the **Leal Senado** (Map p573; 163 Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro) looks over the Largo do Senado and is home to Macau's main municipal administrative body and the mayor's office. If you walk through, there is a relatively peaceful courtyard out the back. Inside, the **IACM Gallery** (☎ 988 4180; ☎ 9am–9pm Tue–Sun) has rotating exhibits, and the **Senate Library** (Map p573; ☎ 572 233; ☎ 1–7pm Mon–Sat) houses an extensive book collection and some wonderful carved wooden furnishings.

### MONTE FORT

Built by the Jesuits between 1617 and 1626, **Monte Fort** (Fortaleza do Monte; Map p573; ☎ 6am–7pm May–Sep, 7am–6pm Oct–Apr) is accessible by escalator just east of the Church of St Paul. Barracks and storehouses were designed to allow the fort to survive a long siege, but the cannons were fired only once: during an aborted invasion by the Dutch in 1622.

Housed in the fort is exceptional **Macau Museum** (Museu de Macau; Map p573; ☎ 357 911; www.macaumuseum.gov.mo; adult/child under 11 & senior MOP\$15/8, free on 15th of month; ☎ 10am–6pm Tue–Sun), with multimedia exhibits focusing on the

history, traditions and culture of Macau. We think this is one of the best museums in Asia – don't miss it.

### PAWNSHOP HERITAGE EXHIBITION

Housed in the former Tak Seng On (Virtue and Success) pawnshop built in 1917, the **Pawnshop Heritage Exhibition** (Espaço Patrimonial – Uma Casa de Penhores Tradicional; Map p573; ☎ 921 811; 396 Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro; admission MOP\$5; ☎ 10.30am–7pm, closed 1st Mon of month) incorporates the fortresslike eight-storey granite tower with slotted windows where goods were stored on racks or in safes. Sharing the same building is the mildly interesting **Cultural Club** (Clube Cultural; Map p573; ☎ 921 811; 390 Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro; ☎ 10.30am–8pm).

### RUINS OF THE CHURCH OF ST PAUL

The façade and majestic staircase are all that remain of the **Church of St Paul** (Ruínas de Igreja de São Paulo; Map p573; Rua de São Paulo), built in the early 17th century. However, with its wonderful statues, portals and engravings that effectively make up a 'sermon in stone', some consider it to be the greatest monument to Christianity in Asia.

The church was designed by an Italian Jesuit and built in 1602 by Japanese refugees who had fled anti-Christian persecution in Nagasaki. After the expulsion of the Jesuits from Macau in 1762, a military battalion was stationed here. In 1835 a fire erupted in the kitchen of the barracks, destroying everything except what you see today.

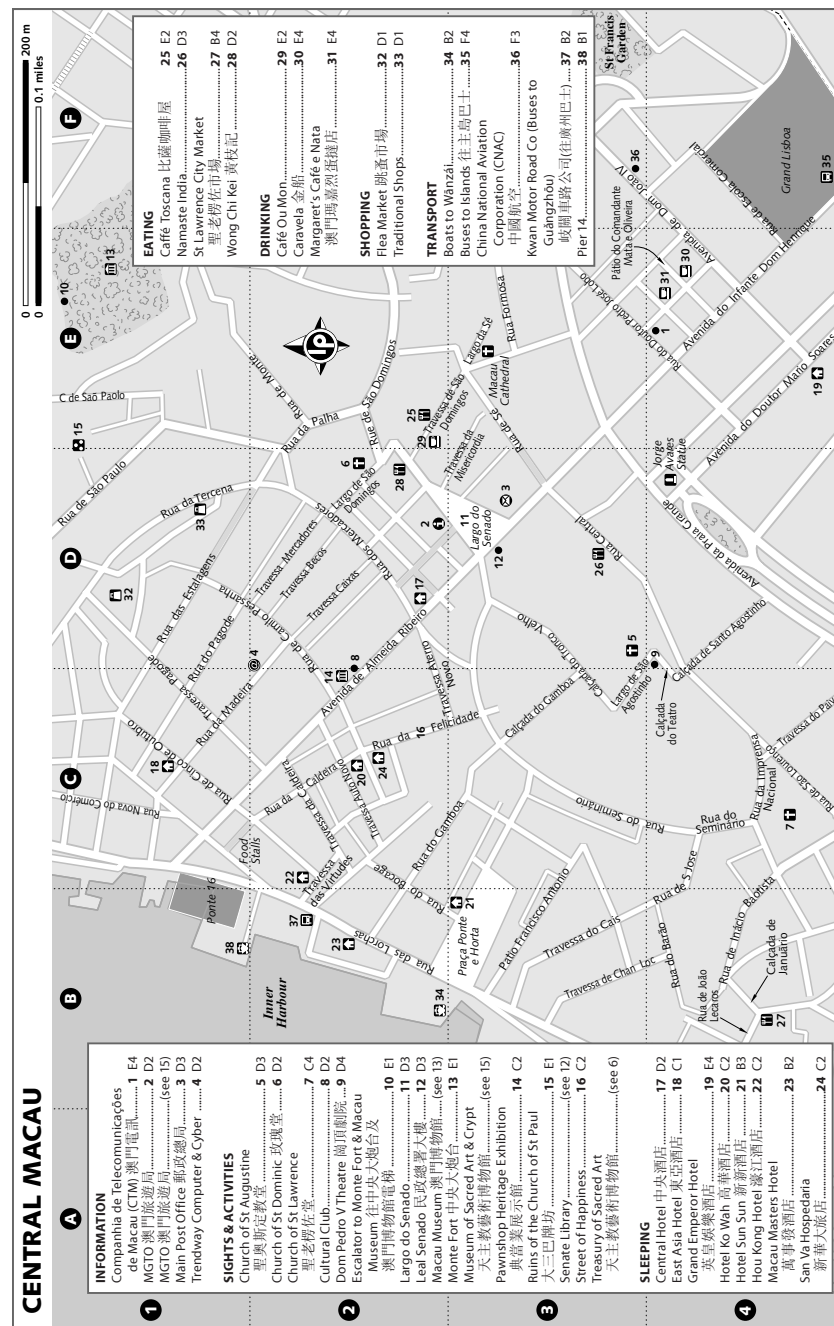
The small **Museum of Sacred Art** (Museu de Arte Sacra; Map p573; Rua de São Paulo; ☎ 9am–6pm) behind the ruins contains polychrome carved wooden statues, silver chalices, monstrances and oil paintings. The adjoining **crypt** (*cripta*) contains the remains of Vietnamese and Japanese Christians martyred in the 17th century.

### STREET OF HAPPINESS

Not far west of Largo do Senado is **Rua da Felicidade** (Street of Happiness). Its red-shuttered terraces were once Macau's main red-light district. You might recognise it from *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*, which has several scenes shot here. It's fun to just wander west from here towards the Inner Harbour.

### Southern Macau Peninsula

A good way to get an overview of the riches on offer on the Macau mainland is to take in the



south part of the peninsula by following the 90-minute 'Penha Peninsula' walk outlined in the tourist office's pamphlet *Macau Walking Tours by Day and Night*. From Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro follow Calçada do Tronco Velho to the **Church of St Augustine** (Igreja de Santo Agostinho; Map p573; Largo de Santo Agostinho; ☎ 10am-6pm) built in 1814 and, just opposite, the **Dom Pedro V Theatre** (Teatro Dom Pedro; Map p573; ☎ 939 646; Calçada do Teatro), a colonnaded, 19th-century pastel green building occasionally used for cultural performances. Next is the **Church of St Lawrence** (Igreja de São Lourenço; Map p573; Rua da Imprensa Nacional; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun, 1-2pm Mon) with its magnificent painted ceiling. One of the two towers of the church formerly served as an ecclesiastical prison. From the church, walk down Travessa do Padre Narciso to the pink **Government House** (Sede do Governo; Map pp570-1; cnr Avenida da Praia Grande & Travessa do Padré Narciso), originally built for a Portuguese noble in 1849 and, for now, headquarters of the Macau SAR government.

The oldest section of Macau is a short distance southwest of here via the beautiful waterfront promenade **Avenida da República** (Map pp570-1). Along here are several colonial villas and civic buildings not open to the public. These include the **former Bela Vista Hotel** (Map pp570-1; Rua do Boa Vista), which as well as being one of the most-storied hotels in Asia, has been a private mansion, secondary school and WWII refugee shelter and is now the residence of the Portuguese consul general. Nearby is the ornate **Santa Sancha Palace** (Palacete de Santa Sancha; Map pp570-1; Estrada de Santa Sancha), once the residence of Macau's Portuguese governors.

#### A-MA TEMPLE

Almost opposite the Maritime Museum and facing the Inner Harbour, the **A-Ma Temple** (Templo de A-Ma; Map pp570-1; Rue de São Tiago da Barra; ☎ 10am-6pm) was probably already standing when the Portuguese arrived, although the present one may only date to the 16th century. The temple is dedicated to A-Ma, better known as Tin Hau (see the boxed text, p567).

#### MACAU TOWER

At 338m, this **tower** (Torre de Macau; Map pp570-1; ☎ 933 339; www.macautower.com.mo; Largo da Torre de Macau; ☎ 10am-9pm Mon-Fri, 9am-9pm Sat & Sun) rises above the Macau Convention & Entertainment Centre on the narrow isthmus of land southeast of Avenida da República. You can

ascend to the **observation decks** (adult/child 3-12 & senior MOP\$70/35) on the 58th and 61st floors and eat at the revolving 360 Cafe, but apart from looking good the tower doesn't actually 'do' anything.

As a result, extreme-sports company **AJ Hackett** (☎ 988 8656) has been allowed to organise adventure activities including the relatively tame Skywalk (MOP\$198) around an outdoor walkway – no rail, but you are attached to a lanyard – 233m above ground; the more adventurous Mast Climb (from MOP\$700) up the mast's 100m of vertical ladders; and the Sky Jump (MOP\$588), a 233m 'controlled descent' that's not a bungee.

#### MARITIME MUSEUM

The **Maritime Museum** (Museu Marítimo; Map pp570-1; ☎ 595 481; 1 Largo do Pagode da Barra; adult/child 10-17 Mon & Wed-Sat MOP\$10/5, Sun MOP\$5/3; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Wed-Mon) has interesting boats and artefacts from Macau's seafaring past, a mock-up of a Hakka fishing village and displays of the long narrow boats raced during the Dragon Boat Festival in June. It used to have access to the sea, but not anymore.

#### OTHER MUSEUMS

Nearer to the ferry terminal are two other museums. The vast **Macau Museum of Art** (Museu de Arte de Macau; Map pp570-1; ☎ 791 9814; www.artmuseum.gov.mo; Macau Cultural Centre, Avenida Xian Xing Hai; adult/student MOP\$5/3, free on Sun; ☎ 10am-7pm Tue-Sun) houses visiting exhibits as well as permanent collections of Chinese traditional art and paintings by Western artists who lived in Macau, such as George Chinnery (see opposite).

The **Grand Prix Museum** (Museu do Grande Prémio; Map pp570-1; ☎ 798 4108; basement, Tourist Activities Centre, 431 Rua de Luís Gonzaga Gomes; adult/child 11-19 MOP\$10/5; ☎ 10am-6pm Wed-Mon) has cars and motorcycles from the Macau Formula 3 Grand Prix and simulators in which you can test your racing skills.

#### Northern Macau Pensinsula

The northern peninsula sees fewer tourists and is thus quite a good area to just wander around, get lost and find yourself some *hung yan bang* (almond-flavoured biscuits sprinkled with powdery white sugar).

#### GARDENS

Macau has several gardens that make perfect places to interrupt your wanderings. Among

the best is cool and shady **Lou Lim Ioc Garden** (Jardim Lou Lim Ioc; Map pp570-1; 10 Estrada de Adolfo de Loureiro; ☎ 6am-9pm), with huge shade trees, lotus ponds, bamboo groves, grottoes and a bridge with nine turns (to escape from evil spirits who can only move in straight lines). Local people use the park to practise taichi or play traditional Chinese musical instruments.

**Luís de Camões Grotto & Gardens** (Jardim e Gruta de Luís de Camões; Map pp570-1; ☎ 6am-9pm) is dedicated to the one-eyed poet Luís de Camões (1524-80), who is said to have written part of his epic *Os Lusíadas* in Macau, though there is little evidence that he ever reached the city.

#### GUIA FORT

As the highest point on the Macau Peninsula, this **fort** (Fortaleza de Guia; Map pp570-1) affords panoramic views of the city and, when the air is clear, across to the islands and China. At the top you'll find a 15m-tall **lighthouse**, built in 1865 and the oldest on the China coast, and the quaint **Chapel of Our Lady of Guia** (Capela de Nossa Senhora da Guia; Map pp570-1; ☎ 9am-5.30pm Tue-Sun), built in 1622.

You could walk up, but it's easier to take the **Guia Cable Car** (Teleférico da Guia; Map pp570-1; one way/return MOP\$2/3; ☎ 8am-6pm Tue-Sun) that runs from the entrance to **Flora Gardens** (Jardim da Flora; Map pp570-1; Travessa do Túnel; ☎ 6am-7pm), Macau's largest public park.

#### KUN IAM TEMPLE

Dating back four centuries, **Kun Iam Temple** (Templo de Kun Iam; Map pp570-1; Avenida do Coronel Mesquita; ☎ 10am-6pm) is Macau's oldest and most interesting temple. The likeness of Kun Iam, the goddess of mercy (see the boxed text, p196), is in the main hall; to the left of the altar and behind glass is a bearded statue believed to represent Marco Polo. The first treaty of trade and friendship between the USA and China was signed in the temple's terraced gardens in 1844.

#### OLD PROTESTANT CEMETERY

As church law forbade the burial of non-Catholics on hallowed ground, this **cemetary** (Antigo Cemitério Protestante; Map pp570-1; 15 Praça de Luís de Camões; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm) was established in 1821 as the last resting place of (mostly Anglophone) Protestants. Among those interred here are Irish-born artist George Chinnery (1774-1852), who spent most of his adult life in Macau painting, and Robert Morrison

(1782-1834), the first Protestant missionary to China and author of the first Chinese-English dictionary.

#### The Islands

Connected to the Macau mainland by three bridges and joined together by an ever-growing area of reclaimed land called Cotai, Coloane and, to a lesser extent, Taipa are oases of calm and greenery, with striking, pastel-coloured colonial villas, quiet lanes, decent beaches and fine Portuguese and Macanese restaurants.

By contrast, the Cotai Strip is development central, with several new mega-casinos sprouting up.

#### TAIPA

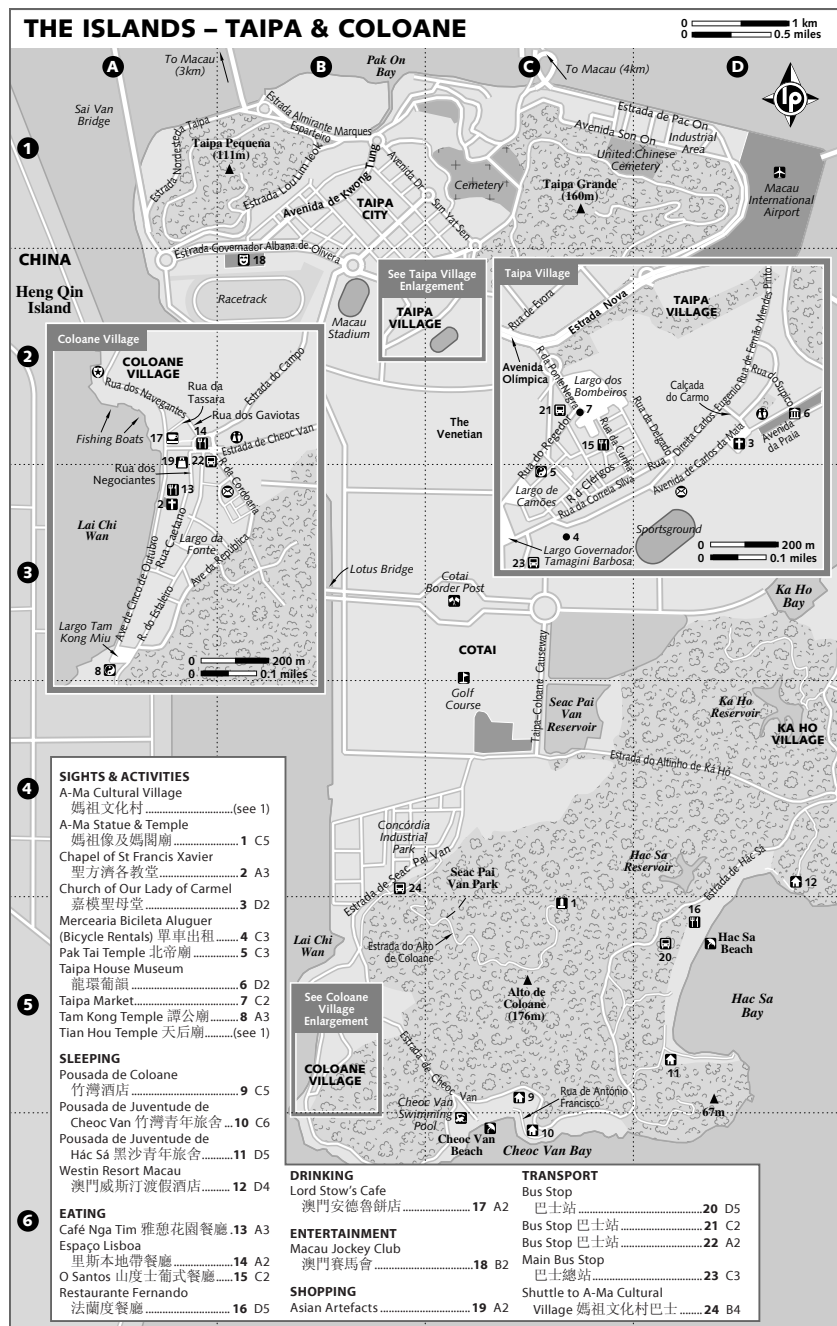
Traditionally an island of duck farms and boat yards, Taipa (Tam Chi in Cantonese) is rapidly becoming urbanised and now boasts major hotels, a university, a racecourse and stadium, high-rise apartments and an airport. But a parade of baroque churches and buildings, temples, overgrown esplanades and lethargic settlements mean it's still possible to experience the traditional charms of the island.

**Taipa Village** (Map p576), in the south-central part of the island, is a window to the island's past. Here you'll find the stately **Taipa House Museum** (Casa Museum da Taipa; Map p576; ☎ 827 103; Avenida da Praia; adult/student MOP\$5/3, free on Sun; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun), housed in five waterfront villas that give a sense of how the Macanese middle class lived in the early 20th century. Also in the village is the **Church of Our Lady of Carmel** (Igreja de Nossa Senhora de Carmo; Map p576; Rue da Restauração) built in 1885, and temples including **Pak Tai Temple** (Templo Pak Tai; Map p576; Rua do Regedor). The village **market** is at the end of Rua do Regedor.

You can rent bicycles in Taipa Village from **Mercaria Bicicleta Aluguer** (Map p576; ☎ 827 975; 36 Largo Governador Tamagini Barbosa; per hr MOP\$18); there's no English but it's next to the Don Quixote restaurant.

#### COLOANE

A haven for pirates until the start of the 20th century, Coloane (Lo Wan in Cantonese) is now attractive for its sleepy main fishing village, sandy coastline and atmospheric cafés and restaurants. It's also the only part of Macau that doesn't seem to be changing at a head-spinning rate, which can be a relief.



In **Coloane Village** (Map p576) the main attraction is the **Chapel of St Francis Xavier** (Capela de São Francisco Xavier; Map p576; Avenida de Cinco de Outubro; ☎ 10am-8pm), built in 1928, and the delightful square in front. The square is home to a monument commemorating the final routing of pirates in 1910, and a couple of relaxed restaurants. The village has some interesting temples, including the **Tam Kong Temple** (Templo Tam Kong; Map p576; Largo Tam Kong Miu) dedicated to the Taoist god of seafarers.

About 1.5km southeast of Coloane Village is **Cheoc Van Beach** (Bamboo Bay; Map p576), where you can swim in the ocean or in the outdoor pool. Larger and more popular is **Hac Sa Beach** (Black Sand Beach; Map p576) to the northeast.

Atop Alto de Coloane (176m), the 20m-high **A-Ma Statue** (Estatua da Deusa A-Ma; Map p576; Estrada do Alto de Coloane) represents the goddess who gave Macau its name (see the boxed text, p567). Hewn from white jade quarried near Beijing, it stands beside the enormous **Tian Hou Temple** (Map p576; ☎ 8am-7.30pm) that forms the core of **A-Ma Cultural Village** (Map p576), a religious complex that includes a vegetarian restaurant. A free shuttle runs from the ornamental gate on Estrada de Seac Pai Van every half-hour from 8am to 6pm.

**TOURS**

Quality Tours, coach trips organised by the MGTO and tendered to such agents as **Gray Line** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 725 813; Room 1015, ground fl, Macau ferry terminal; adult/child 2-9 & senior MOP\$98/88) take about five hours. Ask for an English tour.

**FESTIVALS & EVENTS**

The mixing of two very different cultures and religious traditions for over 400 years has left Macau with a unique collection of holidays, festivals and cultural events. For exact dates, check [www.macautourism.gov.mo](http://www.macautourism.gov.mo) or the individual event's website (listed below).

Key annual events include the **Macau Arts Festival** ([www.icm.gov.mo](http://www.icm.gov.mo)) in March, the colourful **International Fireworks Display Contest** in September, the **International Music Festival** ([www.icm.gov.mo](http://www.icm.gov.mo)) in October and November and the **Macau International Marathon** ([www.sport.gov.mo](http://www.sport.gov.mo)) on the first Sunday of December. But the biggest event of the year is the **Macau Formula 3 Grand Prix** ([www.macau.grandprix.gov.mo](http://www.macau.grandprix.gov.mo)), on the third weekend in November, when the city's streets become a racetrack.

Chinese and Portuguese religious festivals and holidays:

**Lunar New Year** As elsewhere in China, the lunar New Year (or Spring Festival) is a three-day public holiday in late January or early February.

**Procession of the Passion of Our Lord** (9 February 2008) A colourful procession in February bears a statue of Jesus Christ from the Church of St Augustine through the streets to Macau Cathedral.

**A-Ma Festival** (29 April 2007, 28 April 2008) Festival honouring the very popular A-Ma (aka Tin Hau), the patron of fisherfolk.

**Feast of the Drunken Dragon** (24 May 2007; 12 May 2008) People who make their living by fishing close up shop and take a break to enjoy three days of drinking and feasting. Watch for dancing dragons in the streets.

**Dragon Boat Festival** (19 June 2007; 8 June 2008) As in Hong Kong, this is a major public holiday in June.

**SLEEPING**

We can't emphasise enough how smart it is to stay in Macau on any night except Saturday. During the week you can find some incredible deals on accommodation, especially but not exclusively in the three- to five-star bracket. On Saturdays rates as much as treble.

These big discounts can be found at travel agencies, hotel websites and specialist sites such as [www.gomacau.com](http://www.gomacau.com) and [www.macaulastminute.com](http://www.macaulastminute.com). The **Shun Tak Centre** (200 Connaught Rd, Sheung Wan) in Hong Kong, from where the ferries to Macau depart, is also good, as are the booths in the arrivals hall of the Macau ferry terminal.

All rooms have air-conditioning and bathroom unless stated. Most midrange and top-end hotels have shuttle buses from the ferry terminal.

**Macau Peninsula**

Hotels on the mainland are generally split geographically into price constituencies, with many cheap guesthouses and hotels occupying central Macau, around Rua das Lorchas and Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro and the top-end casino-hotels generally in the southeast and centre of town.

**BUDGET**

**San Va Hospedaria** (Map p573; ☎ 573 701; [www.sanva.hotel.com](http://www.sanva.hotel.com); 67 Rua de Felicidade; s MOP\$70, d MOP\$80-130) On the 'Street of Happiness' that was once the hub of the red-light district, the San Va is about the cheapest and most charismatic lodging in town. But it's also very basic, with

tiny rooms (room 205 is best), paper-thin walls, no air-con and some rooms without bathrooms.

**Central Hotel** (Map p573; ☎ 373 888; fax 332 275; 264 Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro; s Sun-Fri MOP\$150-188, Sat MOP\$173-210, d Sun-Fri MOP\$160-198, Sat MOP\$210-232) It's cheap. It's central. That's it.

**Hotel Ko Wah** (Hotel Kou Va; Map p573; ☎ 375 599; 3rd fl, 71 Rua da Felicidade; s/d from MOP\$150/180) This welcoming little place is popular with backpackers. It's far from luxurious, but the central location, the price and smiling Miss Shirley make up for that.

**Hou Kong Hotel** (Map p573; ☎ 937 555; fax 338 884; Travessa das Virtudes; s MOP\$309, tw MOP\$366-389, tr MOP\$550) In the historic Porto Interior area, the newly refurbished Hou Kong retains its wonderful old façade but now offers surprisingly modern rooms for the money. Check a few – some don't have windows.

**Macau Masters Hotel** (Map p573; ☎ 937 572; www.mastershotel-macau.com; 162 Rua das Lorchas; s/d from MOP\$350/400; ☒) A shabby exterior hides a smartly maintained hotel with small but well-equipped rooms.

**East Asia Hotel** (Map p573; ☎ 922 433; fax 922 431; 1a Rua da Madeira; d MOP\$400-450, tr MOP\$500, ste MOP\$720) The 98-room East Asia, in a quiet street five minutes' walk from Largo do Senado, is one of Macau's better budget options. The rooms aren't inspirational, but they are unusually large and perfectly adequate. Floors six to eight are best.

#### MIDRANGE

▣ **Pousada de Mong Há** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 515 222; www.ift.edu.mo/pousada; Rua de Mong Há; s/d/ste Mon-Fri MOP\$400/500/900, s/d/ste Sat & Sun MOP\$500/600/1000) This traditional-style and rather attractive little Portuguese inn is run by tourism students. Rates include breakfast and are among the best in the city.

**Hotel Guia** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 513 888; www.hotelguia-macau.com; 1-5 Estrada do Engenheiro Trigo; r MOP\$550-780, ste MOP\$1000-2000) At the foot of Guia Hill, this 90-room place is compact but comfortable and pretty good value. It's still within walking distance of most places.

**Hotel Sun Sun** (Map p573; ☎ 939 393; www.bestwestern.com; 14-16 Praça Ponte e Horta; r MOP\$600-980) The Sun Sun is a solid midrange option in one of Macau's more interesting neighbourhoods. The service is reliable and the 178 rooms are comfortable if uninspiring. Ask for an upper floor.

**Fortuna Hotel** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 786 333; www.hotelfortuna.com.mo; 63 Rua da Cantão; r MOP\$980-1120, ste from MOP\$1888) In the thick of the casino district, the Fortuna offers decent rooms and attractive midweek rates.

**Hotel Royal** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 552 222; www.hotelroyal.com.mo; 2-4 Estrada da Vitória; r from MOP\$1280, ste from MOP\$3380) Some people love the Royal, some hate it...it depends on which room you get. Renovated rooms are very nice and the promotional rates, especially those with breakfast, are excellent.

#### TOP END

▣ **Pousada de São Tiago** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 378 111; www.saotiago.com.mo; Fortaleza de São Tiago da Barra, Avenida de República; s & d MOP\$1620-1960, ste from MOP\$2300) The 'St James Inn', built into the ruins of a 17th-century fort, commands a splendid view of the harbour. Rooms were set for an overhaul when we visited.

**Hotel Lisboa** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 377 666; www.hotelisboa.com; 2-4 Avenida de Lisboa; r from MOP\$1650; ☒ ☑ ☒) After a long-overdue overhaul, Macau's most famous hotel has luxurious rooms to match the reputation. But if you're seeking serenity, this sprawling complex of gaming rooms, restaurants and dancing girls is not for you.

**Grand Emperor Hotel** (Map p573; ☎ 889 988; www.grandemperor.com; 288 Avenida Comercial de Macau; d from MOP\$1800; ☒ ☑ ☒) From the 'Beefeaters' out front to the gold bars under the floor and life-size portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, this casino-hotel is a festival of royal kitsch that's worth visiting even if you're not staying. If you are, the standard rooms are luxurious, but why not splash out on the 700-sq-m Emperor Suite, with separate rooms for your bodyguards and personal servants...of course.

**Mandarin Oriental** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 567 888; www.mandarinoriental.com/macau; 956-1110 Avenida da Amizade; r MOP\$2000-3900, ste from MOP\$5300; ☒ ☑ ☒) While the Sands Casino has robbed the Mandarin Oriental of its waterfront location, the rooms, excellent restaurants (particularly the Italian food at Mezzaluna, p580) and whole experience here are hard to top.

#### The Islands

Taipa and Coloane have several midrange hotels and one very nice resort. Macau's two Hostelling International-affiliated hostels are both on Coloane Island. These will soon be joined by several huge hotels on the Cotai Strip.

#### BUDGET

The very clean **Pousada de Juventude de Cheoc Van** (Map p576; ☎ 882 024; Rua de António Francisco, Coloane; dm/d Sun-Fri MOP\$40/70, Sat MOP\$50/100) hostel is on the eastern side of Cheoc Van Bay, below the Pousada de Coloane. It has a small kitchen and garden. Book through the **Education & Youth Services Department** (☎ 555 533; www.dsej.gov.mo). You must have a HI card or equivalent; men and women are separated. Ditto for the **Pousada de Juventude de Hác Sá** (Map p576; ☎ 882 701; Rua de Hác Sá Long Chao Kok, Coloane; dm/d/q Sun-Fri MOP\$40/50/70, Sat MOP\$50/70/100) at the southern end of Hac Sa Beach.

#### MIDRANGE

▣ **Pousada de Coloane** (Map p576; ☎ 882 143; www.hotelcoloane.com.mo; Estrada de Cheoc Van, Coloane; r from MOP\$750; ☒) Run by a Portuguese family, this 30-room hotel and its newly renovated, Portuguese-style rooms is wonderfully romantic and excellent value. And the location above Cheoc Van Beach is about as chilled as you'll find. The Portuguese restaurant (open 8am to 10pm) is great.

#### TOP END

▣ **Westin Resort Macau** (Map p576; ☎ 871 111; www.westin.com/macau; 1918 Estrada de Hac Sa, Coloane; r/ste from MOP\$2200/5000; ☒ ☑ ☒) On the eastern side of Hac Sa Beach, the five-star Westin is Macau's only top-end hotel that doesn't have a casino. Instead, it offers a chilled beachside experience, with smooth service and plush rooms, each with a large terrace. The golf course on the roof is very cool.

#### EATING

While Macau is renowned for its Chinese cuisine (especially dim sum), most people come here to sample Portuguese and Macanese food

(see below). For cheap food, the cafés and no-frills Chinese places around Largo do Senado are a good bet.

#### Portuguese & Macanese

Rua Do Almirante Sérgio, just north of the A-Ma Temple (p574) on Macau Peninsula, is a great place to experience some of Macau's finest Portuguese and Macanese food. **Litoral** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 967 878; 261a Rua do Almirante Sérgio; starters MOP\$30-50, mains MOP\$60-120; ☒ noon-3pm & 6-10.30pm) serves delightful Macanese fare, with excellent duck, baked rice and spicy prawn dishes. Nearby **A Lorch** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 313 193; 289a Rua do Almirante Sérgio; starters MOP\$28-46, mains MOP\$58-130; ☒ 12.30-3pm & 6.30-11pm Wed-Mon) has a more Portuguese bent; try the chicken with onion and tomato; *feijoada*; raw codfish salad; or pork ear salad (MOP\$26).

**Restaurante Fernando** (Map p576; ☎ 882 531; 9 Praia de Hac Sa, Coloane; soups MOP\$22-26, mains MOP\$50-148, rice dishes MOP\$60-66; ☒ noon-9.30pm) Fernando is famed for seafood and is the perfect place for a protracted, boozy lunch by the sea. The bar stays open till midnight.

**Espaço Lisboa** (Map p576; ☎ 882 226; 8 Rua dos Gaivotas, Coloane; soups MOP\$28-65, starters MOP\$45-150, mains MOP\$88-240; ☒ noon-3pm & 6.30-10.30pm Tue-Fri, noon-10.30pm Sat & Sun) Carefully prepared Portuguese fare is served in this charming renovated village house.

**Carlos** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 751 838; Ground fl, Vista Magnífica Bldg, Rua Cidade de Braga; mains MOP\$50-80; ☒ noon-3pm & 6-11pm Tue-Sun) Forget the menu, just ask Senhor Carlos what he'd like to cook today – you won't be disappointed. Otherwise, try the Macanese *minchi* (spicy mince with rice and egg on top) or any of the delicious Portuguese dishes.

▣ **Santos** (Map p576; ☎ 827 508; 20 Rua da Cunha, Taipa; mains MOP\$62-120; ☒ noon-3pm & 6.30-10.30pm)

#### PORTUGUESE & MACANESE FOOD

Portuguese cuisine is meat-based and uses a lot of olive oil, garlic and *bacalhau* (dried salted cod). Popular dishes include *caldo verde* (a soup of green cabbage or kale thickened with potatoes), *pasteis de bacalhau* (codfish croquettes), *sardinhas grelhadas* (grilled sardines) and *feijoada* (a casserole of beans, pork, spicy sausages, potatoes and cabbage that is actually Brazilian in origin).

Macanese food borrows from Chinese and other Asian cuisines, as well as from those of former Portuguese colonies in Africa and India. It's redolent of coconut, tamarind, chilli, *jaggery* (palm sugar) and shrimp paste. The most famous Macanese speciality is *galinha africana* (African chicken) made with coconut, garlic and chillies. Apart from cod, there's plenty of other fish and seafood: shrimp, crab, squid and white fish. Sole is a Macanese delicacy. The former Portuguese enclave of Goa contributes delicious spicy prawns.

This tiny place is famous for its stuffed pork loin and its codfish dishes, especially *bacalhau à zé do pipo* (dried cod baked with mashed potatoes; MOP\$72).

### Chinese & Other Asian

**Wong Chi Kei** (Map p573; ☎ 331 313; 17 Largo do Senado; noodle & rice dishes MOP\$15-35; ☎ 8am-midnight) This little Chinese place has been serving cheap noodles and other dishes since 1946.

**Ko Lung Thai** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 334 067; 23 Rua de Ferreira do Amaral; dishes MOP\$25-90; ☎ 11am-7am) This place that almost never sleeps is one of the most authentic Thai restaurants north of Bangkok.

**Café Nga Tim** (Map p576; ☎ 882 086; 1 Rua Caetano, Colane; mains MOP\$30-60; ☎ noon-1am) We love the Sino-Portuguese food, laid-back atmosphere, location (opposite the Chapel of St Francis Xavier) and price at this place.

**Namaste India** (Map p573; ☎ 372 750; 8 Rua Central; curries MOP\$30-60; ☎ 11am-3pm & 6-11pm) The food in this simple, central Indian place is better than the exterior might suggest.

**Fook Lam Mun** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 786 622; 259 Avenida da Amizade; meals from MOP\$200; ☎ 11am-3pm & 5.30-11pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-3pm & 5.30-11pm Sat & Sun) Here it's more about classic Cantonese food (especially the seafood) than the atmosphere.

### Western

**Caffè Toscana** (Map p573; ☎ 370 354; 11 Travessa de São Domingos; meals about MOP\$25-50; ☎ noon-9.30pm Wed-Mon) You can enjoy a full-blown Italian meal at this welcoming café-restaurant, but it's especially recommended for its focaccia (MOP\$18 to MOP\$27).

**Mezzaluna** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 567 888; 2nd fl, Mandarin Oriental, 956-1110 Avenida da Amizade; starters MOP\$65-100, pizza & pasta MOP\$80-125, mains MOP\$150-245; ☎ 12.30-2.30pm & 6.30-11pm Tue-Sun) Mezzaluna serves superb Italian cuisine in classy surroundings. The lunch buffet (two/three courses MOP\$150/180) is great value.

**Boi Na Brasa** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 753 021; 188 Rua de Paris; buffet MOP\$98-150; ☎ 12.30-3pm & 7-11pm Tue-Sun) Forget the menu, just sit down and let the chef carve all manner of meat onto your plate. It does have some salads, but it's mainly a meat-fest.

### Markets & Self-Catering

Peninsular Macau's food stalls sell excellent stir-fried dishes; try the *dai pai dong* along Rua do Almirante Sérgio near the Inner Harbour.

*Yuk gon* (dried sweet strips of pork and other meats) are a Macau speciality, as are *hung yan bang*. You'll see both scattered about older parts of the city, particularly near Rua da Caldeira and Travessa do Matadouro at the northern end of Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro.

Two of the largest markets are the **Almirante Lacerda City Market** (Mercado Municipal Almirante Lacerda; Map pp570-1; 130 Avenida do Almirante Lacerda; ☎ 6am-8pm), also called the Red Market, in northern Macau, and the **St Lawrence City Market** (Mercado Municipal de São Lourenço; Map p573; Rua de João Lecaros; ☎ 6am-8pm) in the south.

Opposite the Macau ferry terminal, **New Yaohan Department Store** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 725 338; Avenida da Amizade; ☎ 11am-10.30pm) has a large supermarket on the 2nd floor.

### DRINKING

Despite its reputation as a city of sin, Macau's nightlife has until recently been dominated by dancing girls and casinos. But it's beginning to change. As contrived as **Fisherman's Wharf** (Map pp570-1) might seem, there are a few decent bars and restaurants there and the atmosphere is generally pretty good. The rise of Fisherman's Wharf hasn't been so good for the bar strip in the Dochas area on Avenida Doutor Sun Yat Sen. The bars here are starting to look pretty tired, though they might get a new lease of life when the nearby mega casinos open. For now, don't arrive before about midnight.

Elsewhere, there's a fine line between cafés, most of which serve food as well, and bars. Here we've listed our favourite places for a warm beverage under 'Cafés' and those where we seek something colder (and stronger) under 'Bars'.

### Cafés

Macau's many little cafés are great for a coffee break and also for cheap and tasty lunches. If you're anywhere near Largo do Senado, Travessa de São Domingos has plenty of options, including the **Café Ou Mon** (Map p573; ☎ 372 207; 12 Travessa de São Domingos; ☎ 8am-8pm Tue-Sun) with its great coffee, Ou Mon cake (MOP\$9) and Portuguese clientele. It also serves sandwiches (MOP\$12 to MOP\$25) and other dishes (MOP\$50).

**Caravela** (Map p573; ☎ 712 080; ground fl, Kam Loi Bldg, 7 Pátio do Comandante Mata e Oliveira; ☎ 8am-10.30pm) This wonderful *pastelaria* (pastry shop) just north of Avenida de Dom João IV serves excel-

lent coffee, delectable pastries (cakes MOP\$10 to MOP\$25) and good sandwiches.

**Margaret's Café e Nata** (Map p573; ☎ 710 032; Rua Alm Costa Cabral St; ☎ 6.30am-8pm Mon-Sat, 9am-7pm Sun) This busy little café is famous for its egg tarts and cheap sandwiches.

**Lord Stow's Cafe** (Map p576; ☎ 882 174; 1 Rua da Tassara; ☎ 7am-10pm Thu-Fri, to 7pm Wed) This place serves baked goodies from the famous bakery around the corner, including its celebrated *pastéis de nata*, a warm egg-custard tart (MOP\$6).

### Bars

**Basement** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 667 3445; 69 Avenida de Sidónio Pais; ☎ 9am-4am Tue-Sun) The coolest lounge bar in town playing some of the best tunes, this place has a great vibe, particularly on weekends. It's hard to find: take a taxi (MOP\$10 to MOP\$15 from the Lisboa) and ask for Hoi Fu (hoy foo); it's located downstairs through a small arcade, next to the BCM Bank.

**Al's Diner** (Map pp570-1; Fisherman's Wharf) This garden-style place on the waterfront serves up cheap beer and more than passable Filipino bands.

### LAS VEGAS OF THE EAST Andrew Burke

A few years ago I was in Macau staying at the Hotel Lisboa. One of the city's most distinctive landmarks, the Lisboa and the casino below had been turning a fat profit since the 1960s. A few other modest casino-hotels were also operating, and the occasional overexcited journalist would describe Macau as the 'Las Vegas of the East'.

But wading through the thick fog of smoke and cacophony of noise in the gaming rooms, sleeping in a room that stank of cigarette smoke, patiently liberating toilet paper one sheet at a time in the casino's bathrooms (a system to prevent mainland punters overusing it) and, heaven forbid, paying for drinks in the casino, the claim sounded like nothing more than marketing puffery.

Then things started to change. Casino mogul Stanley Ho's monopoly was broken and in 2002 Las Vegas operators were invited to set up in competition. With a billion frustrated gamblers on the doorstep, they didn't need to be asked twice. The results are astounding and, on this research trip, I finally started to buy it: Macau is very definitely the Las Vegas of the East.

If you don't believe me, consider this. The tiny territory, just one 40th the size of Hong Kong, will be home to almost 30 casinos by 2008. Those being built on the Cotai Strip are straight out of Las Vegas – the gargantuan Venetian is actually a direct copy, complete with canals and gondolas. Macau's total number of hotel rooms is forecast to grow from about 12,000 in 2006 to more than 50,000 in 10 years time; with them will come huge entertainment venues designed to attract the world's biggest music acts, and the world's biggest spenders. If you still don't believe, then this figure is the killer – Macau is already turning over more money than Las Vegas, with each gaming table 10 times more profitable than its Vegas counterpart.

Whatever you feel about casinos, it's hard to escape the fact that Macau is dominated by them as much as any other place on earth. And with the stated objective to make the Cotai Strip 'an entertainment destination, the likes of which no one has ever seen before in North Asia', you're going to be hearing much more about it in future.

### ENTERTAINMENT

Not surprisingly, entertainment in Macau is dominated by the casinos. Whether it's an assignation with Lady Luck you seek, or the free shows and events the casinos host, there is plenty to choose from. Even the Cirque de Soleil is coming, scheduled to open in 2008.

But there is more. Cultural performances such as opera are becoming increasingly regular; consult the territory's premier venue, the **Macau Cultural Centre** (Centro Cultural de Macau; Map pp570-1; ☎ 797 7215; www.ccm.gov.mo; Avenida Xian Xing Hai) for details.

### Casinos

Casinos and the endless dollars they suck into the city are the lifeblood of Macau (see the boxed text, below). All of them operate 24 hours a day and punters must be at least 18 years old and properly dressed. Standards are rising as competition increases, and even if you don't fancy playing the tables (in many the minimum bet is MOP\$100 or more), it's worth taking a look around, enjoying the free shows and just watching the way these temples to Mammon operate.



Most of Macau's casinos are located in big hotels. The following is a small selection on Macau Peninsula.

**Casino Lisboa** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 375 111; 2-4 Avenida de Lisboa) With its garish 1960s exterior and decades of experience catering to Asia's gamblers – both high- and low-rollers – the Lisboa is the best-known casino in Asia. That doesn't mean, however, it's the best. Despite a recent makeover it retains much of its old raunchy personality, with the Crazy Paris Show still sending out the dancing girls, and punters still cramming into smoke-filled gaming rooms. It's a charismatic contrast with the vast new casinos.

**Pharaoh's Palace Casino** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 788 111; 3rd fl, Landmark Macau, Avenida da Amizade) The kitschy themed gambling areas are another style of casino popular in Macau. Pharaoh's is a sort of midway point between the Lisboa and the Vegas-style places.

**Sands Macao** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 883 388; Avenida de Amizade) Here you'll find hundreds of machines and more than 300 gaming tables, free drinks to gamblers and constant live entertainment, all in a vast space several stories high. Welcome to Macau's casino future.

Others opening imminently include the Vegas-style Wynn Macau, MGM Grand and Venetian, and the new Grand Lisboa, opposite the Lisboa.

## Nightclubs

**Nicole Fashion Club** (Map pp570-1; Fisherman's Wharf; ☎ 7pm-late) It might sound like it's full of wankers, but when we visited this place was playing a good mix of tunes and had a fun vibe. The indoor-outdoor combo is perfect, and makes it the best place on the Wharf.

## Horse Racing

**Macau Jockey Club** (Map p576; ☎ 821 188, information hotline 820 868; www.macauhorse.com; Estrada Governador Albano de Oliveira, Taipa; admission MOP\$20) This has been the venue for horse racing since 1991. You can watch races from the five-storey, air-con grandstands on Saturday from 2pm and Tuesday from 7.30pm (in summer on Wednesday and Saturday from 7.30pm).

## SHOPPING

While there is a growing number of luxury outlets and high-fashion boutiques in Macau, few people come here specifically to shop. However, browsing through the traditional

antique, ceramic and bric-a-brac shops (Map p573) on or near to Rua de São Paulo, Rua das Estalagens and Rua de São António has been known to turn up once-in-a-lifetime finds. Apart from these, **Asian Artefacts** (Map p576; ☎ 881 022; 9 Rua dos Negociantes; ☎ 10am-7pm) in Coloane Village, with its before and after photos of restored pieces, is recommended.

Around Macau's back lanes, you'll stumble across bustling markets and Chinese shops selling birdcages, dried herbs, medicines and mah jong sets. Try Rua de Madeira or Rua dos Mercadores, which lead up to Rua da Terceira and its flea market (Map p573).

The MGTO distributes a useful pamphlet called *Shopping in Macau*, which highlights neighbourhoods and their specific wares. If you're heading to Hong Kong it's worth buying alcohol, which is stupidly expensive there.

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

### Air

One and possibly two new low-cost airlines based in Macau are set to make the ultramodern **Macau International Airport** (Map p576; ☎ 861 111; www.macau-airport.gov.mo), on the east coast of Taipa, much busier. For the details of who's flying where check the airport's comprehensive website.

For now, **Air Macau** (NX; Map pp570-1; ☎ 396 5555; www.airmacau.com.mo; Ground fl, 398 Alameda Doutor Carlos d'Assumpção) has the lion's share of that traffic. International destinations include Bangkok, Busan, Manila, Seoul and dozens of flights a week to Taipei and Kaohsiung in Taiwan. Together with Shanghai Airlines and Xiamen Airlines, both found at the **China National Aviation Corporation** (CNAC; Map p573; ☎ 788 034; fax 788 036; lat Teng Hou Bldg, Avenida de Dom João IV) office, Air Macau has at least one flight a day to mainland cities including Běijīng, Fúzhōu, Guǐlín, Hángzhōu, Kūnmíng, Nánjīng, Shànghǎi, Shēnzhèn and Xiāmén.

New long-haul budget airline **Viva Macau** (www.vivamacau.com) started operating in September 2006 and is expected to service destinations including Milan, Moscow, Mumbai, Delhi, Jakarta, Manila and Abu Dhabi by late 2007. The website www.gomacau.com is a good place to look for cheap fares.

Other airlines with flights from Macau to destinations in the region:

**AirAsia** (FD; ☎ in Hong Kong 3167 2299; www.airasia.com)  
**EVA Airways** (BR; ☎ 726 848; www.evaair.com)

**Tiger Airways** (TR; www.tigerairways.com)

**Trans Asia Airways** (GE; ☎ 701 556; www.tna.com.tw)

**East Asia Airlines/Heli Hong Kong** (☎ 727 288, in Hong Kong 2108 9898; www.helihongkong.com) runs a 16-minute helicopter shuttle between Macau and Hong Kong (HK\$1700 Monday to Thursday, HK\$1800 Friday to Sunday) up to 27 times a day from 9am to 10.30pm (9.30am to 11pm from Hong Kong).

## Boat

### CHINA

A daily ferry run by the **Yuet Tung Shipping Co** (☎ 574 478; adult/child MOP\$124/70) connects Macau with the port of Shékōu in Shēnzhèn. The boat leaves at 10am, 2pm and 6.30pm and takes 80 minutes; it returns from Shékōu at 8.15am, 11.45am and 4.45pm. Tickets can be bought up to three days in advance from the point of departure, which is pier 14 (Map p573), just off Rua das Lorchas and 100m southwest of the end of Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro.

Sampans and ferries sail across the Inner Harbour to Wánzái (MOP\$12.50) on the mainland from a small pier near where Rua das Lorchas meets Rua do Dr Lourenço Pereira Marques. They depart hourly between 8am and 4pm, returning a half-hour later. A departure tax of MOP\$20 is charged.

### HONG KONG

Two ferry companies operate services to/from Hong Kong virtually 24 hours a day.

**TurboJet** (☎ 790 7039, in Hong Kong 2859 3333 information, 2921 6688 bookings; www.turbojet.com.hk; economy/superclass Mon-Fri MOP\$142/244, Sat & Sun MOP\$154/260, night crossing MOP\$176/275) runs three types of vessels that take between 55 and 65 minutes. From Hong Kong Island, departures are from the Macau ferry pier at the **Shun Tak Centre** (☎ 2859 3359; 200 Connaught Rd, Sheung Wan), and in Macau from the **Macau ferry terminal** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 790 7240).

**New World First Ferry** (☎ 727 676, in Hong Kong 2131 8181; www.nwff.com.hk) operates high-speed catamarans from the Macau ferry terminal every half-hour or so between 7am and 8.30pm. In Hong Kong they leave the China ferry terminal (Canton Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui) on the half-hour from 7am to 9pm or 10pm. The trip takes 60 to 75 minutes and tickets cost HK\$140/175 on weekdays/nights (ie from 6pm to 9pm or 10pm from Hong Kong and 6.30pm to 8.30pm from Macau), and

HK\$155/175 on weekends and public holidays. Deluxe class is HK\$245/275 on weekdays/nights and HK\$260/275 on weekends and public holidays.

Macau is also linked directly to Hong Kong International Airport (p560) by the new **TurboJet Sea Express** (☎ in Hong Kong 2859 3333; www.turbojetseaexpress.com.hk), leaving at 9.45am, 1pm, 3pm, 4.30pm and 8pm. It costs MOP\$200/155/110 per adult/child/infant and takes 45 minutes.

A pier at Macau International Airport is due for completion by the time you read this and will probably be serviced by TurboJet. Apart from direct trips between the airport and Hong Kong, Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and some cities in China, passengers should be able to transit straight through to Hong Kong without passing immigration in Macau.

Tickets can be booked up to 28 days in advance and are available at ferry terminals, CTS branches and travel agents. There is also a stand-by queue before each sailing. On weekends and public holidays, book your return ticket in advance.

## Bus

Macau is an easy gateway into China. Simply take bus 3, 5 or 9 to the **Border Gate** (Portas de Cerco; Map p567; ☎ 7am-midnight) and walk across. A second, less busy crossing is the **Cotai Frontier Post** (Map p567; ☎ 9am to 8pm), on the causeway linking Taipa and Coloane, which allows visitors to cross over the Lotus Bridge by shuttle bus (HK\$4) to the Zhūhǎi Special Economic Zone. Buses 15, 21 and 26 will drop you off at the crossing.

For buses further afield, the **Kee Kwan Motor Road Co** (Map p573; ☎ 933 888) operates from the modest bus station on Rua das Lorchas, 100m southwest of the end of Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro. Buses for Guǎngzhōu (MOP\$70, four hours) depart every half-hour and for Zhōngshān (MOP\$25, 70 minutes) every 20 minutes between about 8am and 6.30pm. There are buses to Guǎngzhōu (MOP\$75) and Dōngguǎn (MOP\$80) from Macau International Airport.

## GETTING AROUND

### To/From the Airport

Airport bus AP1 (MOP\$3.30) leaves the airport and zips around Taipa before heading to the Macau ferry terminal and the Border Gate. The bus stops at a number of major hotels en route and departs every 15 minutes

from 6.30am to 12.10am. There's an additional charge of MOP\$3 for each large piece of luggage. Other services run to Coloane (bus 21 and 26) and the A-Ma Temple (bus 21).

A taxi from the airport to the centre of town is about MOP\$40.

### Bicycle

Bikes can be rented in Taipa Village (see p575). You are not allowed to cross the Macau-Taipa bridges on a bicycle.

### Car

The brightly coloured, open-sided Mokes that have so long been the mainstay of Macau's humble car-hire industry might be on their last lap. Laws forbidding vehicles older than 10 years being hired mean the rental companies are being pressured to retire their fleets in 2007. It's not, however, a *fait accompli*, so ask around when you get there.

**Avis Rent A Car** (Map pp570-1; ☎ 726 571; www.avis.com.mo; Ground fl, Macau ferry terminal) hires out cheap Suzuki Vitaras for MOP\$550 a day during the week and MOP\$700 at the weekend.

### Public Transport

Public buses and minibuses run on 40 routes from 6.45am till just after midnight, with

destinations displayed in Portuguese and Chinese. Fares – MOP\$2.50 on the peninsula, MOP\$3.30 to Taipa, MOP\$4 to Coloane Village and MOP\$5 to Hac Sa Beach – must be paid into a box; there's no change.

The *Macau Tourist Map* (p568) has a full list of both bus companies' routes, and a pamphlet listing all bus routes is worth picking up from MGTO outlets. Useful services on the peninsula include buses 3 and 3A, which run between the ferry terminal and the city centre. Bus 3 continues up to the border gate, as does bus 5. From the ferry terminal, bus 12 runs past the Hotel Lisboa and then goes up to the Lou Lim Ioc Garden and Kun Iam Temple.

Buses 21, 21A, 25 and 26A run to Taipa and Coloane.

### Taxi

The taxi flag fall is MOP\$10 for the first 1.5km and MOP\$1 for each additional 200m. There is a MOP\$5 surcharge to go to Coloane; travelling between Taipa and Coloane will cost MOP\$2 extra.

Journeys starting from the airport cost an extra MOP\$5, and large bags an extra MOP\$3. For a yellow radio taxi call ☎ 519 519 or ☎ 939 939.