



# The Last Breath

Our industry is dying.

# HK's Tourism Asset: Recognised by HK Tourism Board



WHAT'S NEW

EXPLORE

PLAN

DEALS

About Us

Newsroom



Language ▾



## Nightlife



## A Guide to Nightlife in Hong Kong



You can't come to Hong Kong and not experience the pulsating energy of the city's nightlife | © Gijbert Hanekroot / Alamy Stock Photo



**Matthew Keegan**

20 June 2019

You can't come to Hong Kong without experiencing the pulsating energy of the city's nightlife. In top entertainment hotspots like Lan Kwai Fong, SoHo and Wan Chai, Hong Kong offers a diverse mix of clubs, from the exclusive to the cheap and cheerful.

Home > Photos > 20 Best Cities for Nightlife Around the World

## 20 Best Cities for Nightlife Around the World



Emily Wasserman | August 13, 2013



CREDIT: Courtesy of Eddy Galeotti/Shutterstock

9 OF 20

### Hong Kong

Hong Kong's hustle-and-bustle doesn't end when the clock strikes ten. The city's wide array of clubs, bars, and evening markets offer multiple opportunities for late-night fun. For food lovers, there is no better place than the [Temple](#)>. The air is rich with smells of [delicious Cantonese food](#), and fortune-tellers and acrobats vie for [visitors' attention](#). For late-night drinks, visit [Aqua](#)>, a bar on the [top floor of one of Hong Kong's tallest skyscrapers](#).





# The Hong Kong Culture and City

Hong Kong Nightlife has been revered by overseas magazines and newspapers.

To shut bars, is to shut part of Hong Kong's identity...

“The nightlife industry should not be the one footing the bill for the entire pandemic,” Vice-president of the Licensed Bar and Club Association, Roden Wong Chu-yin said, adding it was unfair that bars were always among the first to be ordered to shut and often among the last allowed to reopen.

# **BAR/NIGHTCLUB CLOSURE DAYS**

**2020**

**CLOSED:**            **136 DAYS (Bars)**  
                         **158 DAYS (Clubs)**

**OPEN WITH**  
**RESTRICTIONS:** **138 DAYS (Bars)**  
                         **115 Days (Clubs)**

**2021**

**CLOSED:**            **90 DAYS**  
                         **(Bars and Club)**

**OPEN WITH**  
**RESTRICTIONS:** **0 DAYS**

Calculation up to 31 March 2021

**Number of bars closed permanently since  
March 2020**

**Over 210 bars**

**Number of employees were  
placed on furlough**

**Over 10,000 employees**



**We are the  
only industry  
that is not  
open**

# Some institutions that are now permanently shut...


Drop  
PLAY  
Volar

Others include:

- Levels
- Lighthouse
- Hard Rock Cafe
- Enoteca
- BB Jazz Lounge
- Euphoria
- Runway







**57%** of bars will close  
permanently if unable to  
operate in the coming 2 months

Source: SCMP; Prediction by HK Licensed Bar and Club Association (as of Feb 2021)



**Christmas and Lunar New Year:  
The sector lost about HK\$4.5 billion in  
revenue.**

Sources: HK Bartenders and Mixologist Union, RTHK, The Standard

**Number of employees faced pure  
unemployment**

**General: 261,600 (7.2%)**

**F&B: 32,200 (14.1%)**

**6000 entry-level employees left  
unemployed due to the bar closure**

**20%** of bartenders  
lost their jobs

---

**75%** forced to take  
no-pay leave



**71%** of employees didn't have  
any income in the past 3 months

---

**53%** of employees lost their jobs  
in the past 6 months

Source: HKNIA Survey (sampled from 106 bar owners)

# A letter from a bar employee...

Dear Chief Executive,

I am an ordinary woman that was born in Hong Kong, raised in Hong Kong, I am not well educated, know nothing about politics, and won't even dare to criticize the Government. All I know is to work as hard as I can and raise my daughter, giving her a happy childhood.

I have given up my daytime job in order to provide for my daughter to go to school. I started to work in bars years ago, it was fine in the beginning, however, we were forced to stop working since COVID-19. We were still able to get paid while the employee subsidiary scheme was active, but it has been stopped for 3 months already and all my saving has been spent. There are a lot of necessities I must spend on every month, e.g. rent, my daughter's tuition fees, food etc. but I can't now. I tried to ask for advance wages from my boss many times, but I know it is at the end of his tether already. During Chinese New Year, I am not able to bring my daughter visit our relatives, I do not have money for transportation. She just sat near the window and watching other kids having fun. I am totally hopeless and speechless at the moment.

Mrs. Lam, you are also mother of two children, I believe that you totally understand what I am experiencing. I am not the only one who is experiencing this, we need your help. I sincerely hope that you can help on resuming all the business in HK, save us from this horrible nightmare.

Thank you so much,

A Desperate Mum




**Employees are still struggling to make a living.**

**100%** of employers having  
financial issue

**72%** of employers having  
difficulty repaying debt

Source: HKNIA Survey (sampled from 106 bar owners)



**Many bars and nightclubs still haven't received parts of their subsidies they applied for since last year in earlier rounds of the anti-epidemic relief fund, which is why they're only staying open to receive the full disbursement before officially closing down.**



# IN THE MEANTIME...

	London	Singapore	Melbourne	Tokyo
<b>Govt Restriction on bars</b>	Lockdown	8 people / contact tracing / no alcohol after 10:30pm	No more than 1 person per 4 square metres on dance floor / The 2-square-metres rule to the rest of the venues	1. Close restaurants and bars at 8pm 2. Stop serving alcohol after 7pm
<b>For operator</b>	1. Up to a maximum of £2,500 per month 2. Tax allowed to defer 3. Don't have to pay business rates	1) Selective nightlife establishments reopen as pilots with stringent safe management measures (SMMs). 2) Grant for bars pivot their businesses to permissible activities 3) An ex-gratia payment of S\$30,000	1. 50% stamp duty discount for commercial and industrial property 2. Liquor license fee waivers for 2021	1. USD \$600 per day (subsidy for 8pm closure) 2. ¥1.8 million each to restaurants and bars 3. ¥400,000 will be given to small businesses and up to ¥200,000 to sole proprietors
<b>For employees</b>	1. £500 if needed to self-isolate 2. 80% of regular wages for furloughed hours, max £2,500 per month	Wage Subsidy Scheme: 30% wages support (capped at the first \$4,600 of wages)	1. \$450 COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment 2. \$1500 COVID-19 Worker Support Payment 3. Payroll tax refund	Subsidize maximum 100% of leave allowance for SMEs; maximum 80% leave allowance for large enterprises
<b>For Rent</b>	Loan is provided	4 months rental waivers for F&B	Rent Relief for SME	Rent fee support benefits for SMEs and provide subordinated loan for large companies etc.

# IN HONG KONG

Anti-epidemic Fund	Subsidies (HKD)	Application Period
First Round	N/A	N/A
Second Round	Bar: One-off subsidy \$50,000  Catering Business: Minimum: \$250,000 not exceeding 100m <sup>2</sup> Maximum: \$2,200,000 >700m <sup>2</sup>	9:00 a.m., 5 May 2020 (Tuesday) to 5:00 p.m., 5 June 2020 (Friday)
Third Round	Bar: One-off subsidy \$25,000  Catering Business: Minimum: \$50,000 not exceeding 100m <sup>2</sup> Maximum: \$250,000 >700m <sup>2</sup>	9:00 a.m., 13 October 2020 (Tuesday) to 5:00 p.m., 12 November 2020 (Thursday)
Fourth Round	Bar: One-off subsidy \$50,000  Catering Business: Minimum: \$100,000 not exceeding 100m <sup>2</sup> Maximum: \$500,000 >700m <sup>2</sup>	9:00 a.m., 29 December 2020 (Tuesday) to 5:00 p.m., 28 January 2021 (Thursday)



# To save our industry, we need your help.

## OUR REQUESTS:

1. Financial Support
  - a. From December 2020-February 2021
  - b. For a recovery period (6 months)
2. Consistent and transparent dialogue on:
  - a. Relaxing opening hours
  - b. Financial support



**Thank you!**