As a New Yorker, I fell in love with Hong Kong easily, because the two cities have a similar density and energy."

By Daisann McLane

When someone comes to visit me, the first place I take them is for a ride on one of the city's historic tram cars. It's worth spending a day hopping on and off to explore the entire length of the line, but if pressed for time, I would at least take the tram from the skyscraper-filled downtown out to the dried seafood and herbal markets in Sheung Wan. It's a way to see both old and new Hong Kong in a short hop.
October through April is the best time to visit my city because it’s cooler and drier. You can see my city best from the open, unused waterfront dockyards in Kennedy Town. Go during sunset for the chill local vibe.

Locals know to skip The Big Buddha and touristy cable cars and check out Cheung Chau island instead. The LockCha teahouse, located in the Flagstaff House Museum of Tea Ware, is the place to buy authentic souvenirs, including fine Chinese teas and surprisingly affordable fine porcelain tea sets.

In the past, notable people like political leader Ho Chi Minh, novelist José Rizal, and writer Eileen Chang have called my city home. My city’s best museum is the Tenement Museum at the Mei Ho House because it is actually an old public housing estate where you can experience how locals once lived.

If there’s one thing you should know about getting around my city, it’s to buy a reusable electronic Octopus Card, which will not only gain you access to any form of public transport—from ferries to buses to light-rail—it can also work as cash in a 7-Eleven or Starbucks.

The best place to spend time outdoors in my city is to discover Hong Kong’s superb network of hiking trails and wilderness parks. Trek to deserted beaches like Tai Long Wan and you’ll swear you are in Thailand.

My city really knows how to celebrate Christmas because our shopping malls and commercial areas are even more elaborately decorated than New York City’s! Revelers and carolers flock to downtown streets and count down to midnight on Christmas Eve.

Just outside my city, you can visit Macau. Skip the gambling areas and head straight to chilled-out Coloane Island, where you can stay at a luxury hilltop hotel or, for local flavor, in the Three Lamps District. Don’t miss the delicious Burmese noodle shops in the latter.

My city is known for being cold and brusque, but it’s really “gam ching”—sentimental and warm with incredible loyalty. A Hong Kong friend is a true one. The best outdoor market in my city is the open-air “wet” market in Shau Kei Wan, which comes to life only after midnight. The night view of the Victoria Harbor, Hong Kong Island

The Sci Fi Channel drama, a reboot of the 1970s series overlaid with post-9/11 themes, starts its three-hour series finale with an hour tonight (10 ET/PT) and a two-hour finish next Friday. After four seasons, the Human-Cylon war is almost at an end, but only because both sides are near extinction.

Sons, the Human-Cylon war is almost at an end, but it’s hard to let it go.

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The busy street of Sim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

10 Must-Visit Spots in HK

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Though influenced by the terror attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center, the series could be seen as an allegory for any warring people, says creator and producer Ronald D. Moore, a former writer for Star Trek: The Next Generation.

“I don’t know that there are easy answers to a lot of things that we experience in life, the national traumas we have been through,” Moore says. “This was an opportunity to highlight them and talk about them in a different way, that wasn’t caught up in contemporary political cultural terms.”

This kind of subject matter elevated the show above sci-fi greek, earning the series a Peabody and on Tuesday a special United Nations screening, where its creators will discuss how international events fed their story lines.

“It’s bittersweet,” Moore says of the show’s finale. “I’m excited for people to see the end and bring it all home. But it’s hard to let it go.”

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Hong Kong students, hundreds of thousands of citizens peacefully took over a whole section of town to show their support for full electoral democracy in the city. They created a huge carefree space of campgrounds, study halls, art exhibits, and nightly entertainment and discussion. It was an extraordinary outpouring of civic soul, and a demonstration of Hong Kong’s independent and indomitable spirit.

Hong Kong Magazine for English speakers, and

Ming Pao for Chinese speakers.

When I’m feeling cash strapped, I pick up a bottle or two of craft beer, hop the bus to Shek O beach, and sit seaside. (In Hong Kong, you always feel cash strapped. It’s the most expensive city in Asia.)

To escape the crowds, I hop on a ferry to a nearby island or go hiking in the New Territories around Fanling or through ancient Chinese villages. The dish that represents my city best is roast pork or wonton noodles, and milk tea is my city’s signature drink. Sample them at Mak An Kee on Wing Kut Street and the Kam Wah coffee shop in Wan Chai, respectively.

Occupy Hong Kong could only have happened in my city. For 79 days, spearheaded by

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Hong Kong

Thailand