

Updated Announcement of AoA 2019

The 57th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Aphasia will be held for the first time in Asia this year. Due to the protests in Hong Kong, it will take place from October 27-29, 2019 at **Hotel Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16** (<http://www.sofitelmacau.com/>). You are most warmly invited to participate in the conference. The link for hotel reservations will be added to this notice soon.

The program remains the same. Please contact Michael Walsh Dickey, Chair of the Program Committee, with questions. His e-mail address is mdickey@pitt.edu.

The keynote speaker for AoA 2019 will be Dr. Lyndsey Nickels of Macquarie University (<https://researchers.mq.edu.au/en/persons/lyndsey-nickels>).

For further information on accommodations and travelling to Macau, see <http://www2.academyofaphasia.org/>

Looking forward to seeing you at the AoA2019 meeting this October!

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Below is information you may find useful when planning your trip:

Destination - Macau

A brief introduction from Lonely Planet (<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/china/macau>) captures the uniqueness of this gem!

“Known as the 'Vegas of China', Macau is indeed an epicentre of gambling and glitz. While luxury entertainment here is world-class, the city has much more to offer than that. Macau was a Portuguese colony for 300 years, a heritage marked by a wonderful cultural hybridity that manifests itself in all aspects of life: Chinese temples stand on maritime-themed Portuguese tiles; the sound of Cantonese permeates streets with Portuguese names; and when you're hungry, it could be Chinese dim sum, *pastéis de nata* (Portuguese egg tarts) or Macanese *minchi* (ground meat stir-fried with potatoes) that come to the rescue.”

Conference venue – Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16

The AoA2019 meeting will be held in Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16 overlooking Pearl River (<http://www.sofitelmacau.com/>). Its location is best described here – “Surround yourself with the UNESCO landmarks of Macau’s historic center. Discover the city’s Portuguese heritage at the Ruins of St. Paul’s and Senado Square, or explore Inner Harbor’s authentic Chinese restaurants. The ferry terminal, the airport and the attractions of Cotai are also within easy reach.”

The easiest way to get there is to take a taxi. However, if you’d like to get there by public transportation, it is also possible.

From Macau International Airport or Taipa Ferry Terminal: Bus number 26 (Stop “Rua do Tarrafeiro”).

From Macau’s Ferry Terminal: Either take the “**Ponte 16 Resort Macau – Macau Ferry Terminal**” **shuttle bus** that does the route between Sofitel and the Ferry Terminal; or take public bus number 10 (Stop: Ponte Cais número 14), 3 (Stop: Kam Pek Community Centre) or 10A (Stop: Ponte Cais número 14).

*All public buses require you to walk a little bit to reach the Hotel. Make sure to see the maps app beforehand.

Recommendation: Moove it app.

Visa

Do you need a visa to MACAU?

Generally, passport holders of **66 countries are exempt from a visa to Macau** for a certain period of time, while some are permitted to obtain a visa upon arrival at the immigration counter.

<https://www.chinahighlights.com/macau/visa.htm>

Visas for Hong Kong:

Nationals of about 170 countries and territories may visit Hong Kong without a visa and can stay for periods varying from 7 days to 180 days depending on nationality.

Nationals of the US, Europe, Australia, Canada and New Zealand don't require a visa to enter Hong Kong for stays of 90 days, 180 days for UK nationals.

For specific information, please refer to pt. 12 of Part II of this webpage:

<https://www.immd.gov.hk/eng/services/visas/visit-transit/visit-visa-entry-permit.html>

Visas for Mainland China:

General information:

https://www.visaforchina.org/CBR_EN/generalinformation/visaknowledge/index.shtml

US citizen: <https://hk.usconsulate.gov/u-s-citizen-services/local-resources-of-u-s-citizens/living-hong-kong/visas-china-elsewhere/>

UK citizen: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/china/entry-requirements>

Australian citizen: <https://www.austrade.gov.au/Australian/Export/Export-markets/Countries/Macau/Visiting/Visas>

Transportation

Macau does not have a metro service in the city, but it does count with a very efficient and frequent bus service around Macau, Taipa, Cotai and Coloane. There are buses 24 hours; however, between 00h00 until 5h00/6h00 they are not as frequent.

Route information in Chinese and Portuguese is posted at every bus stop detailing destinations, itineraries and stops.

The bus fare is MOP6.00 and passengers should prepare adequate coins for the fare as no change is given on the buses.

macaotourism.gov.mo/en/travelessential/before-you-travel/local-transportation

TRANSMAC - Transportes Urbanos de Macau, S.A.R.L: www.transmac.com.mo

Sociedade de Transportes Colectivos de Macau, S.A.R.L: www.tcm.com.mo

MACAUpass

MACAUpass is an electronic payment system using IC card technology installed on all public transport in Macao. Passengers need not use coins, and can also use the pass to make purchases at convenience stores, some bakeries, and vending machines. Website: www.macaupass.com

Travelling to Macau

BY AIR

Macau International Airport

Macau International Airport operates 24 hours a day, with many visitors entering the territory via numerous major cities around the region. For detailed information on flight schedules, please visit www.macau-airport.com or dial +853 2886 1111.

Note. In terms of time zone, Macau is 5 (e.g. Helsinki) to 12 (e.g. New York city) hours **earlier** than parts of Europe and North America, depending on your exact location.

Helicopter Service to and from Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal

The helicopter service from Hong Kong and Shenzhen provides a convenient, upscale option for visitors wishing to quickly reach Macao.

BY SEA

Hong Kong – Macau

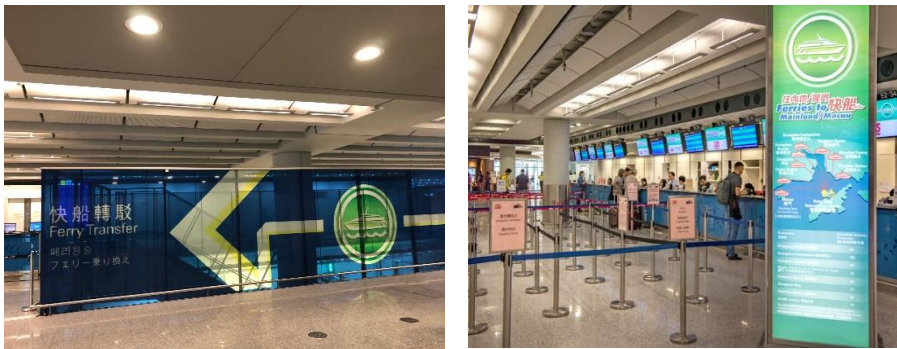
Hong Kong has three major terminals that service Macao-bound routes: Hong Kong-Macau Ferry Terminal in Shun Tak Centre located on Hong Kong Island, the China Ferry Terminal located in Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon and Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal in New Territories. Tourists can find quite a number of jetfoils, catamarans and ferries available, run by TurboJET and Cotai Water Jet.

From HK International Airport – Macau

An airport ferry service is available for passengers travelling to Macao via Hong Kong International Airport. Passengers can arrive in or depart from Macao via Hong Kong International Airport as a transit stop without having to pass through Hong Kong Customs and Immigration formalities and also without the inconvenience of carrying their luggage to the Ferry Terminal (Sky Pier). The ferry trip from Hong Kong International Airport to Macao takes approximately 70 minutes.

Note: SkyPier is for transfer passengers only. It is not applicable to passengers originating from Hong Kong.

Passengers may find signage on where to find the tickets counter to purchase the ferry tickets throughout the airport. There they can also find schedules and routes information.



The companies serving HK International airport are TurbiJET (www.turbojet.com.hk) and Cotai Water JET (www.cotaiwaterjet.com).

Please visit the link bellow to get all the information with regards to the schedules, piers, **baggage tag through service**, tips and details on how to take the ferry at HKIA to Macau:

<https://www.hongkongairport.com/en/transport/mainland-connection/ferry-transfer.page>

Shenzhen → Macao

Yuet Tung Shipping Co. Ltd. And TurboJET offer a ferry service between Macao and Shenzhen.

Depending on the company you may depart from different parts of the city and arrive at different ports in Macau.

The trip may take between 1 hour, and 1 hour and 30 minutes.

BY LAND

Through the Hong Kong- Zhuhai-Macao Bridge tourists can enter Macao by vehicles. Tourists can take shuttle buses or cross-boundary coaches to enter Macao.

Usefull links:

Macau International Airport: www.macau-airport.com

Helicopter Service: www.skyshuttlehk.com

Ferries: www.turbojet.com.hk

www.cotaiwaterjet.com

www.yuettung.com

HMZB: www.hzmbus.com

Other information

Currency and Exchange Rates

By the decision of the Government the Pataca is linked to the Hong Kong dollar (HKD). The exchange rate is MOP103.20 = HKD100.00. There is an acceptable variation up to 10%. Roughly 8 Patacas is equivalent to 1 US Dollar.

Foreign currency can be changed in hotels, banks and authorised exchange dealers located all around the city. If the visitor needs to change money outside the usual banking hours, there are 24 hours exchange counters operating in the Macau International Airport (Taipa Island) and in the Lisboa Hotel (Macao). Banks open normally from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Most credit cards are accepted in many hotels, shops and restaurants.

Electricity

Electricity in Macao is at 230V, 50Hz. The power plugs used in Macao are of the three-pin, square-shaped or round-shaped type. It is suggested to check before using an electrical appliance.



Opening Hours

Most touristic attractions, such as churches, museums and fortresses close at 18h. However, shopping malls and stores at the city centre tend to stay open until around 21h.

Weather

Located in the subtropical climate zone, Macao has moderate climate conditions throughout the year. Annual average temperature is about 23°C (73°F) and ranges from 20°C (68°F) to 26°C (79°F). Humidity levels are high in the city, where the average annual relative humidity tops 79%. The average annual rainfall measures about 2,058 mm in Macao, with the rainy season falling between May and September every year.

Useful Numbers (*)

- 24-Hour Tourism Hotline: +853 2833 3000
- Consumer Council: +853 8988 9315
- Directory Enquiries: 181

(*) If you're dialling from outside Macau, please add the area code (+853).

LIST OF RESTAURANTS AROUND SOFITEL'S NEIGHBORHOOD

**Please note that this list of restaurants is made upon Macau's tourist guides recommendations.*

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ua24CboT2SJ0pr1-tq0liH9yx3CLqGCJ&usp=sharing>