

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Skim the article. Which of the following things does it mention?

transportation    natural areas    safety    entertainment    schools    housing

## The World's Happiest Cities ☺

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When author Dan Buettner went looking for the world's happiest people on four different continents, he found some really great places to live!

\_\_\_ a. Singapore

With a population of 5.1 million, Singapore is really crowded, and people work very long hours. Yet 95 percent of Singapore residents say they are happy. Subway trains almost always arrive on time. The police are good at their jobs and always ready to help. People in Singapore love that their city is so clean and safe.

\_\_\_ b. Aarhus, Denmark

Although people pay an incredible 68 percent of their salaries in taxes here, they get lots of services for free: healthcare, education, and daycare for young children. The city has lots of entertainment options too, like museums, shopping, and nightlife. For those who love nature, it's only a 15-minute bike ride to incredible beaches and forests.

\_\_\_ c. San Luis Obispo, California, U.S.A.

People here smile and feel happy more than in any other American city. Most people travel less than 10 minutes to work, and there are lots of bike lanes, so commuting is easy. Residents share their joy with others, too. Almost 25 percent of people in San Luis Obispo volunteer to help people in their free time.

\_\_\_ d. Monterrey, Mexico

Although many of its people don't earn high salaries, they still feel rich. People in Monterrey have strong family relationships and very busy social lives. They also have a positive attitude about life – they laugh and stay strong even in times of trouble.

Adapted from <http://www.rd.com/advice/travel/the-4-happiest-cities-on-earth>



**INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the article. Match the paragraphs (a-d) to the pictures (1-4).

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the comments of residents of these four cities. Which city do you think they live in? Write the correct letter.

1. "I spend a lot of time with my relatives." \_\_\_\_
2. "A lot of what I earn goes to the government, but I don't mind." \_\_\_\_
3. "I can see great art in my city." \_\_\_\_
4. "I often have to spend eleven hours or more in the office." \_\_\_\_
5. "I help children with their homework after school for free." \_\_\_\_
6. "I try to be cheerful, even when things are going badly." \_\_\_\_
7. "I take the train to work, and I'm never late." \_\_\_\_
8. "On weekends, I can get out of the city without taking the car." \_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Read about transportation in Hong Kong. Write the correct type of transportation in the article.

# GETTING AROUND HONG KONG

Hong Kong has an excellent transportation system. If you fly there, you will arrive at one of the most modern airports in the world. And during your visit, there are many ways to get around Hong Kong.



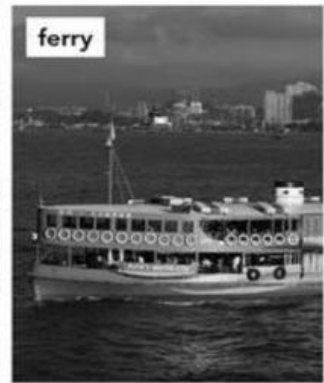
tram



subway



cable railway



ferry

1. \_\_\_\_\_

These have run in the streets of Hong Kong Island since 1904. They have two decks, and they carry more than 180,000 passengers a day. You can travel on six routes, totaling 30 kilometers (about 19 miles). You can also hire one for a private party with up to 25 guests – a great way to enjoy Hong Kong!

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Take one of these to cross from Hong Kong Island to Kowloon or to visit one of the other islands. You can also use them to travel to Macau and Guangdong. They are very safe and comfortable, and they are one of the cheapest boat rides in the world.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Hong Kong's underground railway is called the MTR – the Mass Transit Railway. It is the fastest way to get around. You can take the MTR from the airport to all the major centers in Hong Kong. The MTR carries over four million passengers a day!

4. \_\_\_\_\_

This is found on Hong Kong Island. It pulls you up Victoria Peak, which is 552 meters (about 1,800 feet) above sea level, the highest mountain on the island. The system is nearly 130 years old. In that time, there has never been an accident. Two cars carry up to 120 passengers each.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete the chart. Where you cannot find information, write NG.

	cable railway	ferry	subway	tram
1. How old is it?	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. How many people use it?	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. How safe is it?	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Where can you go?	_____	_____	_____	_____